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AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

ACCORDING to the "Telegraphic News Association," Lower California and four adjacent provinces in Mexico have been ceded to the Emperor Napoleon, and we are even told that "Mr. Gwin, ex-senator of California," has been named Governor of the new State. The "Telegraphic Association" professes to have received the intelligence by two distinct channels—from Mexico and from Washington.

Mr. Reuter, on the other hand, publishes a telegram from Paris declaring that the report of the cession of those provinces to France is "wholly unfounded;" and this has been followed up by an official denial in the *Moniteur*.

The *Times* correspondent at New York states, on the authority of "letters received from Mazatlan and San Francisco," that Lower California has been made over to France in payment of the expenses of the Mexican expedition. It appears certain, then, that at Mexico, Washington, New York, San Francisco, and Mazatlan the cession is believed in; and it is

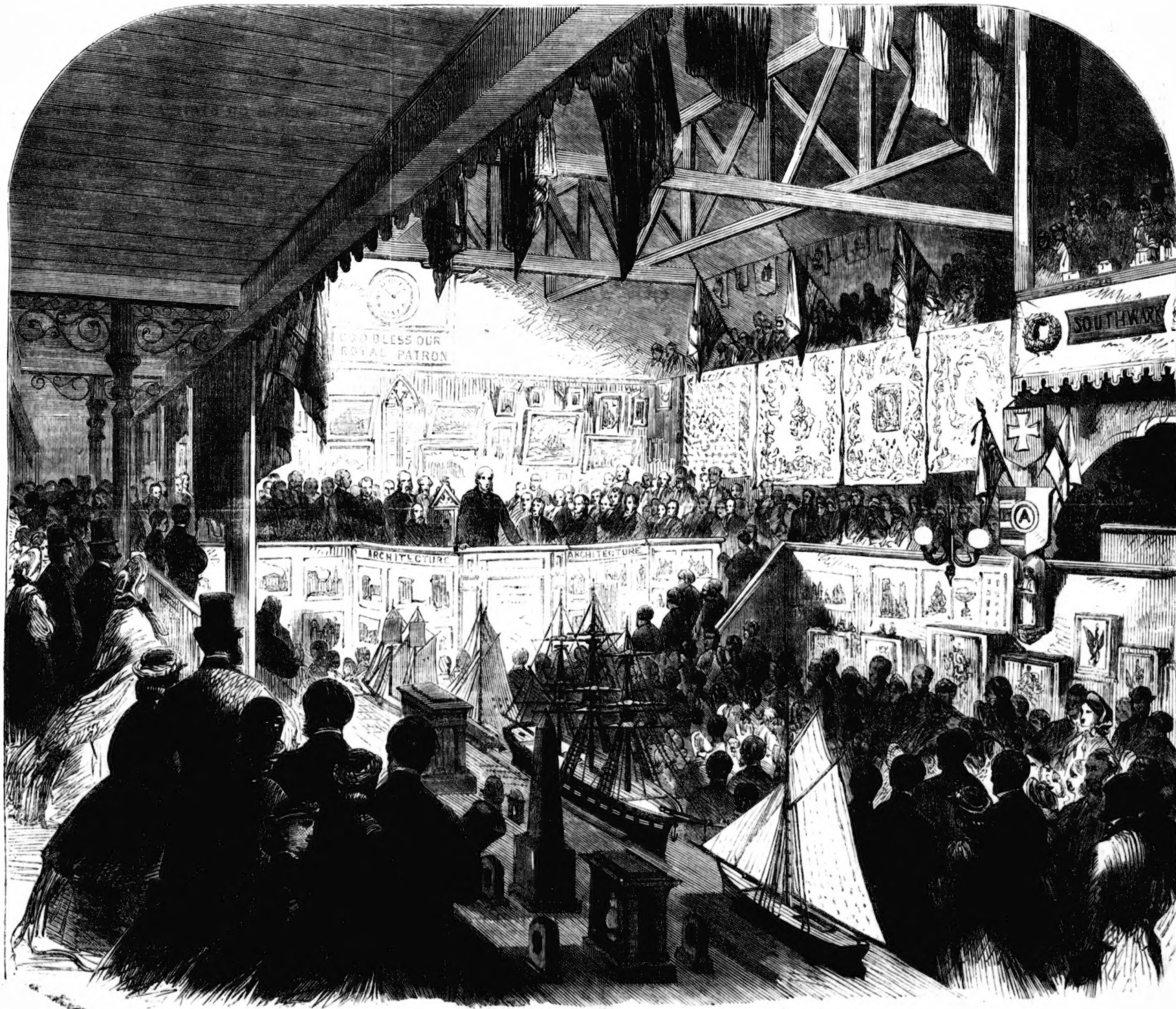
only at Paris that the report of its having taken place is declared to be "wholly unfounded."

When the question of Nice and Savoy was before the European public it was denied, until the very last moment, that any transfer of these provinces from Italy to France was intended. But the Emperor Napoleon took possession of them all the same; as in due time—supposing that he has not done so already—he will, perhaps, take possession of Lower California. It is quite possible, however, that the cession may not, as yet, have been made. It is a matter of etiquette with the Emperor Napoleon to consult a new population as to its wishes on the subject before he proceeds formally to swallow it. With what particular sort of sauce the inhabitants of Lower California will be eaten, we cannot of course say. Probably some sort of *sauce piquante au suffrage universel*; but, in any case, his Majesty is believed to be preparing to gulp them down.

The general American news is also exciting enough. We

hear nothing direct from the Southern States on the subject of Mexico and the alleged cession of the five provinces to France. But all sorts of war projects and peace projects reach us, both from South and from North. The mission of Mr. Blair to Richmond is said to mean very little, but all we really know on the subject is that it is a *secret* mission. It is useless, then, to speculate as to its real import.

The general tone, however, of the Confederate as well as the Federal journals betokens great animosity towards France and England; and it is suggested on both sides that, instead of cutting one another's throats, North and South might as well unite their forces, direct them against those who are not willing to assist either and who treat both with an indifference which seems to be regarded as unfeeling and contemptuous. The story, true or false, of Lower California and much adjacent territory, such as would form altogether an immense tract, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, having been made over to the Emperor Napoleon, if not precisely of



OPENING OF THE SOUTH LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION BY THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

Northern origin, is evidently circulated with great favour by the Northern correspondents; and the most circumstantial accounts of this real or pretended transaction come to us from Washington and New York. The French, once masters of Lower California, would occupy the same position with regard to the Confederacy that the English in Canada hold in respect to the Federation; and it is put forward as a sort of general American, or revived "United States," notion that, in such a case, the North and South should join their forces and, on the Monroe principle, attack the Europeans on both sides. We must add, that this idea seems to be as popular in the South as in the North, from which we, of course, infer that it is supposed to be in accordance with Southern interests. That the South has suffered great losses of late is a fact patent to everyone; and, although the Southern Congress declares itself as confident as ever of ultimate success, we must not forget that this sort of tone has to be kept up by all combatants who are not actually on the point of giving in. Without pretending to possess any of that strategical knowledge which distinguishes so many even of our most peaceful contemporaries, we may yet observe that, judging from the history of European insurrections, the position of the Southern armies, and of the South generally, is still too formidable to leave the North the slightest chance, for many years to come, of vanquishing its enemy by sheer force of arms. If the contest of regular armies had come to an end, an almost interminable guerrilla war might still be maintained. At the same time, it is probable enough that as the South has hitherto, and from the very beginning, placed its dependence upon disciplined bodies of troops, it will never be disposed to resort to a ruinous and demoralising system of petty warfare, after once finding itself thoroughly defeated in the open field.

This, however, is, more or less, guesswork. What is certain is, that the prospects of the South are not nearly so good now as they were a few weeks ago, and that there are now some indications of a tendency between North and South to reunite for the sake of making common cause against the two great European Powers whose common offence is that they have refused to give assistance to either side.

What a piece of good fortune it would be for the despotic Powers of Northern Europe, and what a calamity for the civilisation of the world, if France and England were really to be dragged into a war with the re-United States of America!

SOUTH LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

THE second attempt of the working men of Southern London to get up an industrial exhibition which should be exclusively their own was solemnly inaugurated on Wednesday, the 1st inst., by the Lord Bishop of Winchester, and in presence of a moderately-large assemblage. The platform, as is usual in such cases, was densely crowded by the very numerous committee and their friends; but the attendance in the body of the hall and in the galleries was such as to indicate that the hour chosen for the ceremonial opening was not one best calculated to meet the working man's convenience.

Only eleven months have elapsed since the opening of the first working man's exhibition in Lambeth Baths, and the promoters of the movement aver that great progress has been made since that time. It has, they say, already risen to the dignity of an "institution," and has set an example which has already been successfully followed at Aldershot, Tunbridge Wells, North London, and several other places; whilst at Birmingham, Bristol, and other large and important towns the working classes are actively stirring, and will soon have industrial exhibitions worthily emulating the parent institution. The guarantee fund for the present exhibition is £1108 6s. 6d.—an ample sum for the purpose; and, what is still more gratifying, a large number of the guarantors are working men. The prize of £5 for a design for a commemorative medal has been awarded to Mr. R. W. Martin, a working man of Walworth; and this, as also medals from the second best design, are sold in the exhibition.

The decorations and arrangements of the great bath in which the exhibition is held are much more elaborate than on the former occasion. A strong gallery runs round the walls, and on the front are hung panels recording the various places from which articles have been collected. With respect to the exhibition itself, it would be hardly possible to conceive a more miscellaneous collection; and, judging from the articles exhibited, we should infer that the constructive tastes of the South London working men lay first in the way of models of their native villages, or in some well-remembered haunt of boyhood. The number of toys of this kind with Kentish and other country names inscribed on them is very considerable. Next, we should be inclined to say that the transportive mechanic had a strong bias in a nautical direction. There is a whole fleet of tiny craft of various denominations, from the frigate under full sail down to the smallest fishing-smack; but it is noteworthy that only in one instance is there any symptom to indicate that modern improvements in naval construction had as yet attracted the attention of the working man. The "artistic" department, as it is called, has many votaries. There are numerous drawings, paintings in water colours, and still more ambitious attempts in oil. One or two plaster busts have considerable merit, and there is really an admirable collection of models in terra-cotta. A good deal of freedom of hand is exhibited in more than one wood carving, and one set of inlaid tables is so beautiful as to have called forth the warm eulogium of the Bishop of Winchester. The mechanical department has not nearly so many votaries as the artistic; but, nevertheless, it includes several highly-finished working models, lots of birdcages, and quite an assortment of velocipedes and accelerators. In the general department may be literally found "everything from a needle to an anchor;" but still, with the majority of articles, more of the ornamental than the useful. One article, the work of "Lucy Sparrow, an invalid," in this class, deserves especial mention. It is a bouquet of flowers in needlework, put together by the poor invalid from clippings of cloth; and it would be impossible to imagine anything more ingenious or more delicately true to nature. The whole exhibition numbers 640 articles of various kinds, and is considered to be in many things a decided advance upon its predecessor.

It was expected that Earl Granville and Mr. Gladstone would have assisted at the opening ceremonial, but apologies were made for their absence, in consequence of which the Lord Bishop of Winchester delivered a most impressive and practical inaugural address, which was most attentively listened to and loudly applauded by the assemblage. His Lordship remarked on the progress which civilisation had made, especially in this country, within the memory of every man, and in no point was the change so conspicuous as in the altered positions occupied by working men and their employers towards each other. Formerly each looked on the other as men at a distance, but now the most intimate relations prevailed, and the employers provided in the most liberal way for the indulgence of their men. The Right Rev. Prelate then glanced approvingly at the various branches of the exhibition, and concluded by warmly exhorting the working men to persevere, each until he had obtained per-

fection in the path which he had marked out for himself. Other addresses were delivered, and one or two hymns were impressively sung, and the whole of the proceedings terminated shortly after four o'clock. Amongst the platform visitors were the Hon. W. Cowper, the Hon. A. Kinaird, and many local notabilities.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The report of the cession of several provinces of California to France in compensation for the expenses of the Mexican expedition has been declared in the *Moniteur* to be wholly unfounded, and the *Constitutionnel* reiterates the contradiction.

The Council of State have declared, in a general sitting, that the Bishop of Moulins and the Archbishop of Besançon have committed an abuse of their ecclesiastical authority.

The Parisians are anxiously awaiting the moment when the Emperor will declare his views and policy in the Speech to the Chambers, the terms of which, it is generally hoped and expected, will be unmistakably pacific; if not, the public will be greatly disappointed. In the mean time everything is very quiet and dull in Paris.

ITALY.

The demonstrations in Turin, and especially the one which took place on the occasion of a Court ball on the evening of Monday week, have had an unexpected result. The King was deeply hurt by the demonstration made in front of his palace on the night of the Court ball, and, it seems, expected from the municipal authorities some special disclaimer on behalf of the citizens of any sympathy with such manifestations. The general public of Turin had nothing to do with the vulgar and brutal proceedings of a mere mob, led on, probably, by the hirelings of anti-Italian factions. The citizens, therefore, did not think themselves called on to disclaim any share in such a demonstration—at least the Mayor would not undertake any formal disclaimer on their behalf. The King felt offended, and took the sudden resolution to leave the city and proceed to Florence, where he arrived on the evening of the 3rd inst., and was received with the utmost enthusiasm. A Turin correspondent writes thus in reference to the departure of the King and its cause:—

When the news of this precipitate departure first became known, "his Majesty," it was said, "has given a slap in the face to his sulky Turinese." Strictly speaking, however, the slap must be considered as "returned," for the insult inflicted upon him on the occasion of the state ball on the previous Monday was one of the most deliberate and unhandsome that can be well conceived. The guests, as they repaired to the Royal palace, were received with hisses and derisive shouts, and as the spirits of the crowd waxed bolder with the success of these first efforts, the "demonstrators" resorted to measures of still greater significance; the horses were backed or turned into the by-streets and the carriages pelted with stones. Many persons who had received invitations, hearing that mischief was in the air, purposely abstained from taking part in the festivity; ladies countermanded the orders given to their milliners and dressmakers, or, finding themselves exposed to an unexpected peril, directed their coachmen to drive them home again. The French Ambassador came in for an especial share of the popular attention, and was greeted with yells of "Down with Bonaparte!" "The Republic for ever!" "Down with the Convention!" These who, by hook or by crook, managed to effect an entry into the gilded saloons of Royalty, found them almost deserted, in spite of the efforts made at the eleventh hour to fill up the gaps occasioned in part by the demeanour of the crowd and partly by the intrigues which had been set on foot during the preceding days to induce the leading Turinese families to inflict a studied slight upon the Sovereign. The consequence of all this is, that the preparations for the removal to Florence will now be carried forward with the utmost precipitation. The King and the Prime Minister are in the new capital; the Minister of Public Instruction will start in a few days for the same destination; and I verily believe that if it had been barely possible, the whole apparatus of Government would have been instantly placed on the move.

PRUSSIA.

The bill brought forward by the Government in the Chamber of Deputies fixes the annual military contingent at the proportion of eleven in every 1000 of the male population. The Minister of Marine has requested authority to contract a loan of £9,000,000 sterling for the construction of a fleet.

The Patriotic Association is circulating a petition to the King requesting the incorporation of the duchies with Prussia.

CANADA.

The Canadian Parliament have determined on taking measures to stop the abuse of asylum by Southern refugees, and Judge Coursal, who released the St. Albans raiders, has been suspended by the Government.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

We have intelligence from New York to the 27th ult. The Confederates had blown up and abandoned several forts and other defensive works at Wilmington since the capture of Fort Fisher. Admiral Porter asserts that the Confederates have destroyed two of their own steamers, believed to be the Chickamauga and the Tallahassee. The Federal General Terry had demanded the surrender of Wilmington, giving General Bragg until the 19th to decide. Opinions differ as to whether the Confederates would surrender or defend the place; but a proclamation had been issued by the commander of Wilmington requesting absent citizens not to return. He says that, if governed by his own inclination and judgment, he will sooner burn Wilmington than let Butler's countrymen occupy it. In the mean time, Admiral Porter had occupied all the forts and works abandoned by the enemy, and was feeling his way up the river. President Davis was said to be in Wilmington.

Admiral Porter reports that in each of the forts he has occupied at the mouth of the Cape Fear River he has found an Armstrong gun stamped with the broad arrow, from which he hints that they must have belonged to the British Government.

A Confederate fleet of ironclads and gun-boats, said to be under the command of Captain Semmes, had descended the James River and made an attack on the Federal works at City Point. Unfortunately for the Confederates, their ironclads grounded, and the attack proved unsuccessful. No other movement of importance had taken place in the neighbourhood of Richmond or Petersburg.

Sherman, according to the *Richmond Despatch*, had concentrated his forces near the Combahee River, where he had received a check which would probably delay him for a considerable time. 27,000 men from Nashville were reported en route, via the Mississippi, for General Sherman's army, who was stated to have announced to the War Department that the force confronting him was much more formidable than he anticipated.

Thomas was erecting winter quarters on the Tennessee River. The indications were that he will not move from his present position. The *Richmond Sentinel* asserts that Hood's army was in good spirits, and that recruits were compensating for the losses in the late campaign.

President Davis had accepted the resolutions of the Congress and appointed General Lee General-in-Chief of the Confederate forces. General Johnson had been reinstated, and appointed to the command of the Confederate army in the west.

GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Blair had returned to Washington from his second visit to Richmond, and admits that his second visit has convinced him that peace is unobtainable, except upon the condition of recognition of Southern independence. An address was about to be issued by the Southern Congress announcing to the people their determination to prosecute the war. The Richmond press deprecate idle peace discussions and recommend undivided attention to the war. Resolutions had been introduced in the Washington Senate to the effect that no negotiation, concession, or compromise can be entered into with rebels until they manifest unconditional submission to Federal authority. War must continue until their submission is secured and the Constitution established over the whole of the United States territory.

According to Southern accounts, two Monitors had sunk off

Charleston. At a meeting of citizens held at Columbia, resolutions were passed urging the citizens to rally in their defence and declaring that the evacuation of Charleston would be disastrous to the Confederacy. The Government was also urged to send an adequate force to prevent so great a calamity.

The Illinois State Senate, by a majority of four votes, had repealed the law prohibiting the immigration of negroes into that State.

The *Richmond Examiner* says that, if the South were conquered, she would find consolation in assisting to vindicate the Monroe doctrine, and build up a colossal Power on the American continent. This object might now be obtained if the North recognised Southern independence, with an offensive and defensive treaty customs' union of free trade, uninterrupted travel between the States, and the free navigation of the Mississippi. This would give the people the advantages of the old Union without its evils. The policy of both nations would be the Monroe doctrine.

General Butler had written a letter to Mr. James Brooks, a member of Congress, demanding an explanation of a speech made by the latter asserting that a gold robber, in the person of a Major-General, had been sent to New York to control the elections. Mr. Brooks read General Butler's letter to the House of Representatives reaffirming that Butler was a gold-robber and asserting that his letter was an infraction of the privileges of a member of Congress. The Speaker decided that the letter was not an infringement of privilege. General Butler had addressed a letter to the Speaker asking a committee to investigate his official acts.

The Canadian Judges had decided that Burleigh, who had been engaged in an attempt to seize Federal vessels on the Lakes, must be delivered up to the United States. A message of the Governor-General recommending an appropriation to replace the money returned to the St. Albans raiders had been well received by the Parliament.

ALLEGED CESSION OF MEXICAN TERRITORY TO FRANCE.

THE *Democratic Press* of San Francisco publishes the following statement in reference to the alleged cession of certain States of Lower California to France by the Emperor Maximilian:—

We have refrained from indulging in speculations or expressing any opinion in regard to the many reports and rumours relating to the position and designs of Dr. Gwin in Mexico until we could give the exact facts and indisputably vouch for them. This we are now prepared to do, by information received from Mr. Barclay Henby, accredited agent of Dr. Gwin, under the protection of the Emperor of Mexico.

Maximilian has conveyed by trust deed to the Emperor Louis Napoleon Senatoaria and other northern States of Mexico, the boundaries of which have not yet been determined upon, to be held and governed by the latter under Mexican protection, as security for the payment of the said claims, with all private rights secured under French occupation confirmed.

Dr. Gwin is Governor-General or Vice Secretary of the Emperor of the French, and is invested with plenary powers for the government of the States which have been ceded, and to dispose of the public lands and mines.

Dr. Gwin has drawn up a code of laws, which have been approved by the Emperor of the French, of the most liberal kind, guaranteeing civil and religious liberty, providing for pre-emption purchase of the public lands, and regulating the terms of occupation and the use of the mines.

The Emperor of the French guarantees a military force, under the direction of the Governor-General, sufficient to maintain the public peace and defend the people of the States against internal and external foes.

The policy of Dr. Gwin, which has the approval of both Emperors, is to encourage emigration from the American States by offering the most liberal terms to settlers, in order to bring intelligent industry, energy, and enterprise to the development of the well-known resources of that region, so highly favoured by the natural advantages of soil, the climate, and mineral wealth, and to form an enlightened and substantial population, which will assure permanency and security, and give strength and power to defend the States from filibustering expeditions, which the unappropriated riches and semi-barbarous condition of the people have heretofore invited.

JEFFERSON DAVIS ON STATE ACTION FOR PEACE.

THE following is a letter addressed in November last to certain senators of Georgia on the proposition that the seceded States should each separately open negotiations with the North for peace:—

Richmond, Virginia, Nov. 17, 1864.

Gentlemen,—I answered by telegraph this morning your letter of the 11th inst., as requested, and now respectfully comply with your desire that I should express my views on the subject to which you invite my attention.

In forwarding to me the resolutions introduced into the House of Representatives of Georgia by Mr. Stephens, of Hancock, you state that you are not inclined to favour the passage of these or any similar resolutions, believing them to have a tendency to create divisions among ourselves and to enfeeble and strengthen our enemies; but that it is asserted in Milledgeville that I favour such action on the part of the States, and would be pleased to see Georgia cast her influence in that way. You are kind enough to say that if this be true, and if the passage of these or similar resolutions would in the slightest degree aid or assist me in bringing the war to a successful and speedy close, you will give them your earnest and hearty support. I return you my cordial thanks for this expression of confidence, but assure you that there is no truth in the assertions which you mention; and I presume that you will already have seen by the closing part of my annual message, which must have reached you since the date of your letter, that I have not contemplated the use of any other agency in treating for peace than that established by the Constitution of the Confederate States. That agency seems to me to be well adapted to its purpose, and free from the injurious consequences that would follow any other means that have been suggested. The objection to separate State action which you present in your letter appears to be so conclusive as to admit of no reply. The immediate and inevitable tendency of such distinct action by each State is to create discordant instead of united counsels—to suggest to our enemies the possibility of a dissolution of the Confederacy, and to encourage them by the spectacle of our divisions to more determined and united action against us. They would readily adopt the false idea that some of the States of the Confederacy are disposed to abandon their sister States and make separate terms of peace for themselves; and if such a suspicion, however unfounded, were once engendered among our own people it would be destructive of that spirit of mutual confidence and support which forms our chief reliance for success in the maintenance of our cause.

When the proposal of separate State action was first mooted it appeared to me so impracticable, so void of any promise of good, that I gave no heed to the proposal; but upon its adoption by citizens whose position and ability gave weight to the expression of their opinions I was led to a serious consideration of the subject. My first impressions have not been changed by reflection. If all the States of the two hostile federations are to meet in convention, it is plain that such a meeting can only take place after an agreement as to time, place, and terms on which they are to meet. Now, without discussing the minor, although not trifling, difficulties of agreeing as to time and place, it is certain that the States would never consent to a convention without a previous agreement as to terms on which they were to meet. The proposed convention must meet on the basis either that no State should, against its own will, be bound by the decision of the convention, or that it should be so bound. But it is plain that an agreement on the basis that no State should be bound without its consent by the result of the deliberations, would be an abandonment on the part of the North of its pretended right of coercion—would be an absolute recognition of the independence of the several States of the Confederacy—would be, in a word, so complete a concession of the rightfulness of our cause that the most visionary cannot hope for such an agreement.

In advance of the meeting of a convention the only other possible basis of meeting is that each State should agree beforehand to be bound by the decision of the convention; and such agreement is but another form of submission, of Northern dominion, as we well know that in such a convention we should be outnumbered nearly two to one on the very threshold of the scheme proposed. Therefore, we are met by an obstacle which cannot be removed. Is not the impracticable character of the project apparent?

You will observe that I leave entirely out of view the suggestion that a convention of all the States of both federations should be held by common consent, without any previous understanding as to the effect of its decisions—should meet merely to debate and pass resolutions that are to bind no one. It is not supposed that this can really be the meaning attached to the proposal by those who are active in its support, although the resolutions to which you invite my attention declare the function of such a convention would be simply to propose a plan of peace with the consent of the two belligerents, or, in other words, to act as negotiators in treating for peace. This part of the scheme is not intelligible to me. If the convention is only to be held with the consent of the two belligerents, that consent cannot be obtained without negotiation. The plan, then, would resolve itself into a scheme that the two Governments should negotiate an agreement for the appointment of negotiators to make proposals for a treaty. It seems much more prompt and simple to negotiate for peace at once than to negotiate for the appointment of negotiators, who are to meet without power to do anything but make proposals. If the Government of the United States is willing to make peace, it will treat for peace directly. If unwilling, it will refuse to consent to a convention of States. The author of these resolutions, and those who concur in his views, appear to me to commit the radical error of supposing that the obstacle to

obtaining the peace which we all desire consists in the difficulty of finding proper agencies for negotiating, so that the whole scope of the resolutions ends in nothing but suggesting that, if the enemy will treat, the best agency would be State delegates to a convention; whereas, the whole and only obstacle is that the enemy will not treat at all, or entertain any other proposition than that we should submit to their yoke, acknowledge that we are criminals, and appeal to their mercy for pardon.

After this statement of objections it may appear superfluous to add others of less gravity; but, as you invite a full expression of my views, I will add that history is replete with instances of the interminable difficulties and delays which attend the attempt to negotiate on great and conflicting interests where the parties to the negotiation are numerous. If this has been the case where the parties possessed full power to conclude a treaty, what can we hope from an assembly of negotiators from thirty or forty States, who, in the midst of an exasperating warfare, are to meet without power to conclude anything? In the history of our country we find that in a time of profound peace, when the most cordial brotherhood sentiment existed, and when a long and bloody war had been brought to a triumphant close, it required two years to assemble a convention and bring its deliberations to an end, and another year to procure the ratification of their labours. With such a war as the present in progress, the views of the large assemblage of negotiators proposed would undergo constant changes according to the vicissitudes, according to the struggle; and the attempt to secure concordant views would soon be abandoned, and leave the parties more embittered than ever, less hopeful of the possibility of successful negotiation. Again, how is the difficulty resulting from the conflicting pretensions of the two belligerents in regard to several of the States to be overcome? Is it supposed that Virginia would enter into a convention with a delegation from what our enemies choose to term the State of West Virginia, and thus recognise an insolent and violent dismemberment of her territory? Or would the United States consent that West Virginia should be deprived of her pretensions to equal rights, after having formally admitted her as a State and allowed her to vote at a presidential election? Who would send a delegation from Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, or Missouri? The enemy claim to hold the governments of those States, while we assert them to be members of the Confederacy. Would delegates be received from both sides? If so, there would soon be a disruption of the convention. If delegates are received from neither side, then a convention of the States most vitally interested in the result would remain unrepresented; and what value could be attached to mere recommendations of a body of negotiators under such circumstances? Various other considerations suggest themselves, but enough has been said to justify my conclusion that the proposal of separate State action is unwise, impracticable, and offers no prospect of good to counterbalance its manifold injurious consequences to the cause of our country.

DEATH OF THE HON. EDWARD EVERETT.

Mr. EVERETT, formerly Minister of the United States to this Court, whose death was reported in the news from America last week, was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in 1794. He was educated at Harvard College, and, adopting the profession of his father, became pastor of a church in Boston. In 1814 he was appointed to a newly-founded professorship of Greek literature in his own university; and, the better to qualify himself, came to Europe, and studied for two years at the University of Göttingen. In 1818 he was in England, receiving kind attentions from Scott, Mackintosh, Romilly, and others. On his return he addressed himself with vigour to the duties of his post, assuming at the same time the editorship of the *North American Review*. In 1824 he delivered the first of those occasional and ceremonial addresses for which he afterwards became famous. It was a discourse before a learned society on "The Circumstances Favourable to the Cultivation of Literature in America." Since then he has delivered orations on almost every topic which the history, situation, and hopes of his country can suggest, and always to admiring hearers. In 1824 Mr. Everett was elected to Congress, his nomination having been made without consulting him, and the body of his supporters comprising men of all parties. He sat ten years in Congress, during the whole of which he was a member of the Committee of Foreign Affairs. A very large proportion of the reports of committees presented during his membership were from his pen. In 1827 he addressed a series of letters to Mr. Canning on colonial trade. In the autumn of 1834 he was chosen Governor of Massachusetts, to which he was three times re-elected. His period of office was marked by the organisation of the Board of Education, the establishment of normal schools, the scientific and agricultural surveys of the State, and the establishment of a commission for the revision of the criminal law. In 1840 he again visited Europe with his family, and spent nearly a year in France and Italy. It was at this time that, on the recommendation of his friend Mr. Webster, General Harrison's Secretary of State he was appointed Minister of his country at the Court of St. James's. At that time a number of thorny questions urgently needed settlement. These were the recent burning of the Caroline, the case of the *Cole*, disputes concerning Oregon, and the seizure and detention of American vessels by British cruisers on the coast of Africa. On all these questions Mr. Everett was left without specific instructions, and to the unfettered exercise of his own judgment; and, although the settlement of the Oregon difficulty was reserved for other hands, he succeeded to the satisfaction, not only of Mr. Webster, but of his three successors in the secretaryship of State. In 1845 Mr. Everett returned home, became president of Harvard College, and published a collected edition of his own speeches. In 1852 he became President Fillmore's Secretary of State. During his administration the copyright convention with this country was negotiated. But the question which attracted most notice during his period of office was the joint proposition of England and France to enter with the United States into a tripartite convention for guaranteeing Cuba in perpetuity to Spain. This proposition, which belongs to a stage which our diplomacy in its progress has left far behind, was declined in a despatch by Mr. Everett, which was marked by great ability, and also by some of those disagreeable features which do not surprise us so much as they should in American State papers. In 1853, Mr. Everett was elected a senator for Massachusetts, but was compelled to resign his seat in the following year by ill-health. Since that time he has not held any high office, although he was a candidate for the vice-presidency in 1860. On the great question which was big with the fate of his country the course of Mr. Everett was not satisfactory. In 1826 Everett declared in the House that he was "ready to shoulder a musket to put down a slave insurrection." He lived to advocate a war to put down an insurrection of slave-owners.

THE SAFFRON-HILL MURDER.—Serafino Polizzioni, an Italian, was on Friday week convicted of the murder of Michael Harrington, at a public-house on Saffron-hill, on the 26th of December last, and sentenced to be executed. The Sheriff has fixed Wednesday, the 22nd inst., for the execution, and have been to devote from the ordinary practice of having the last sentence of the law carried out on Monday, in order to obviate the desecration of the Sabbath which usually attends public executions. Efforts are being made to procure a reprieve for Polizzioni. A number of Italians attended on Wednesday at the Clerkenwell Police Court, and made affidavits to the effect that they believed a man named Gregorio, and not Polizzioni, had committed the murder. These affidavits are to be laid before the Home Secretary. Later in the day Gregorio gave himself up to the police, declaring that he was the guilty man, but asserting that he only acted in self-defence.

ON COPPER IN ARTICLES OF GENERAL CONSUMPTION.—The *Lancet* of last week contained the results of the analysis for copper of forty-two samples of peas, beans, and mixed vegetables preserved in air-tight cases, of bottled fruits, and of various pickles. Of the thirty samples of peas, beans, and other green vegetables, copper was found in twenty-five; while five only were free from that metal. Of the bottled fruits examined, as greengages and gooseberries, all contained copper, which was also found in five of the nine pickles tested. In the peas, beans, and other vegetables contained in hermetically sealed cases, the metal existed in the form of sulphate of copper, or "bluestone," which had been purposely introduced with a view of imparting to them a bright green colour; whilst, in the pickles, it existed in the form of acetate of copper. In many of the samples the quantity of copper was large, the solution of the ash when treated with ammonia furnishing a liquid of a deep blue colour. The same solution properly acidulated also afforded an abundant deposition of the metal in a pure state on a polished rod of iron. Indeed, in the case of pickles and other vegetables, when the quantity of copper is considerable, this last method affords a ready means of detecting it, it being only necessary to immerse in the suspected article the polished blade of a knife, allowing it to remain for twenty-four or forty-eight hours, as the case may be, when it will become distinctly coated with the metal in question, which is at once recognised by the unaided eye. The practice of introducing a virulent poison like copper into articles of general consumption is most reprehensible and dangerous, and one which has in many instances led to serious consequences.

SCOTLAND.

ANCIENT GRAVEYARDS.—At a recent meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, an account was read of graves recently discovered at Hartlaw, on the farm of Westruther Mains, by Mr. John Stuart, secretary. These graves were found in two knolls which commanded an extensive view of the adjoining country. They were formed of slabs of stone, and varied in length from 4 ft. to upwards of 6 ft., their direction being east and west. In the knolls many foundations of circular inclosures were found, and several pits paved with stones and filled with charred wood and burnt matter. The number of graves discovered was sixteen. They contained portions of unburnt human skeletons, and in and near them were vestiges of charred wood and greasy earth. These graves were recently excavated under the directions of Lady John Scott; and drawings by her Ladyship, with a sketch plan by Mr. Spottiswoode of Spottiswoode, were produced; also portions of the bones and burnt matter found in the graves. Mr. Stuart contrasted these graves with those found at Clocharie, in the same neighbourhood, and recently described by Lady John Scott. In this last case the cists were short, and contained burnt bones. An urn containing burnt bones was found in one of them, and traces of burning in pits and elsewhere occurred near the cists, while inclosing walls like those at Hartlaw were uncovered. Mr. Stuart was disposed to regard the last as marking a purely Pagan burial, and the other as an example of a transition period. He quoted early capitularies against the burning of the bodies of Christians and carrying them to Pagan mounds; also against the continuance of the Pagan feasts which used to be held at graves, stating that the appearances of the bones of animals near graves in Christian sites, as at the Kirkcubright of St. Andrew's, and the traces of burning about those of Hartlaw, might probably be held to mark such feasting, in both cases. A notice was also given of a group of four short cists recently discovered near Yesterhouse, from a description by Mrs. Warrender. The cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Lady John Scott for carrying out the examination of the graves, and for the beautiful drawings which she made to illustrate the description of them.

THE PROVINCES.

A NONPLUSSED ARCHDEACON.—A large congregation assembled in Exeter Cathedral the other Sabbath to hear Archdeacon Bartholomew preach. The reverend gentleman ascended the pulpit, but could not find his sermon. In blank dismay, he turned up the Bible-covers and cushion, the stool and the desk, searched his pockets, descended to the pew in which he had been sitting, and enlisted in his service the keen eyes of the vergers—all in vain; the sermon was not in his pocket, nor was it in his head. The Archdeacon, therefore, amid the titters of the majority and the sympathy of the minority of his congregation, made a request to the Rev. Prebendary Briereton, who practically illustrated the advantage of extempore preaching by a capital discourse.

BURSTING OF A CANAL NEAR BIRMINGHAM.—A serious flood occurred near Birmingham on Wednesday. Between the Soho and Hockley stations of the Great Western Railway is a tunnel, over which an arm (about a quarter of a mile long) of the old Birmingham Canal passes, having been constructed for the convenience of a coal wharf and a manufactory which exist in the neighbourhood. The driver of a train which passed through the tunnel on Wednesday evening conveyed intelligence to the station-master at Hockley that the water was rapidly leaking into the tunnel. Steps which were at once taken to avert the danger proved futile, and in a short time the waters burst through the brickwork, flooded the tunnel, tore up the rails, and, escaping from the mouth of the tunnel nearest Birmingham, poured, in an immense volume, into the lower ground which lies adjacent to the station, flooding a large number of houses, and doing an immense amount of damage to the property. The roads were rendered completely impassable, and all communication will be stopped for some days at least. No lives were lost, though many narrow escapes are reported.

THE LONDON DRESSMAKING COMPANY (LIMITED).

THE first general meeting of the shareholders of this company took place, on Monday afternoon, at the residence of Sir P. Burrell, M.P., in Berkeley-square. As might be expected from the nature of the undertaking, the meeting was chiefly composed of ladies. Mr. T. Hughes (Tom Brown), a member of the board of directors, presided. From the report which was read to the meeting, it appeared that nearly 800 of the 1000 shares forming the first issue had been subscribed for. A suitable house in Clifford-street for carrying on the business of the company had been leased; and, the formation of the necessary staff being nearly completed, it was hoped that business would be commenced on or before Lady Day next. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to a feeling of impatience which had been manifested in some quarters at the delay which had occurred in the commencement of operations; but from his experience he could assure the shareholders that it was only surprising they should now be in so forward a condition, as the difficulty of procuring a suitable house at the West End had been very great. The company had received from the shareholders about £2600, of which £1700 was bearing interest, and the balance remained at the bankers. The premises in Clifford-street had been approved by the ladies' committee, and were being fitted up for immediate occupation. The object of the company was to remedy some very serious evils connected with the dressmaking business which had of late excited much public attention. Various efforts had been made to remove those evils, and some good, no doubt, had been done. It was felt, however, that the overwork was a trade evil which could only be cured by trade influences, and therefore this company was formed to introduce a system of shorter work-time and healthier work-rooms. The problem they had to solve was whether a company could obtain those ends without any unfair advantage over the private trade, and secure a profit which, after giving a due return for the capital invested, would leave a surplus, which might be devoted to the benefit of the working hands. Attempts had been made to ridicule the movement, and sneers had been thrown out about "ladies playing at shopkeeping;" but he was sure that those ladies who had taken part in this undertaking from a conviction that it was their duty to assist in removing admitted evils would not be discouraged by such remarks. The success of the company was entirely in the hands of the ladies themselves; and, if the shareholders would give their custom to the company and exercise a little forethought and patience in giving them orders, a vast amount of good would be done. At certain periods, before drawing-rooms and balls, a glut of business for immediate execution was thrust upon the West-End dressmakers, who, naturally, did not like to refuse custom; and thence arose the frightful amount of excessive labour of which the public had heard. The ladies who had joined this company had by so doing avowed themselves anxious to mitigate the evils of overwork, and therefore were bound to take care that they did not themselves contribute to those evils. In conclusion, he would observe that if the company succeeded it would effect much good; but, if it failed, its failure would perpetuate the evils which they sought to remedy, and it would be referred to as evidence of the impossibility of putting an end to a system which entailed so much suffering upon hundreds of young women. Lord Kirkcaldy seconded the motion, and said that it was intended only to employ the best workers, but he hoped that a surplus of profits would be found which could be devoted to the improvement of less skilled workers. The report was adopted, and the directors were re-elected, a vote of thanks to them being passed upon the motion of Mr. Cowper, M.P., and the proceedings were brought to a close by an acknowledgment of the kindness of Lady Burrell in granting them the use of her drawing-room for the occasion.

THE PATENT LAWS.—The recommendations of the commissioner appointed to inquire into the working of the patent laws have just been issued. Among the more important of these may be mentioned—That no importation of a foreign invention shall be patented; that no patent shall be extended beyond its original term of fourteen years; and that the Crown shall be entitled to the use of all patents, the remuneration to be fixed by the Treasury.

THE MALT-TAX.—A meeting was held on Wednesday at the Freemasons' Tavern to promote the repeal of the malt-tax. Sir Fitzroy Kelly presided, and there was present a goodly number of county members and farmers. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, in opening the proceedings, advised the farmers not to ask for more than they were likely to get. The resolutions, which were nearly unanimously passed, asked for a repeal of the duty as soon as possible, and demanded that surplus revenue should be appropriated in that way. Several members of Parliament were among the speakers.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—Heavy damages were given by a jury in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Monday, in an action for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff was a Miss Woodward, the daughter of a surgeon at Worcester. The defendant, Mr. Clarke, had been a captain in the 54th Regiment. In 1863 he had wooed and won the affections of the plaintiff, and a series of letters passed between them. At last he wrote, without any previous notice, that he had made a mistake, and that he did not love the lady with the warmth which was desirable. He therefore broke off the match. The jury gave the plaintiff £2000 damages.

MILITARY LIFE IN THE SOUTH.—The following is an extract from a letter of a colonel in the Confederate States army, dated Richmond, Dec. 14, 1864:—"I have not seen my family since first I left them, and this is the fourth year of our separation. I have a child over three years old that I do not know, and should the fighting continue on the same scale, there is strong probability that I never will know her, and fight we will and must until our soil is free or we are laid beneath it. It must see us free, dead or alive; we can never be slaves where we have been masters; the very mention seems a blight on our manhood, and blisters the tongue that utters it. I sometimes hear from them, but my letters are robbed of half their interest by the time it has taken them to reach me. They were all well when I last heard; but my poor old mother's health is but feeble, and an accident to the son upon whom all her faculties seem concentrated would probably snap the thread that has been so long and so painfully strained; but she is like an old Roman, and would prefer any day seeing me brought home on my shield than come without it. Farewell, friend of happier days," &c.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BUTESHIRE.—The Hon. Frederick Boyle, brother of Lord Glasgow, Conservative, has been returned for Buteshire (vice Lord Mure, raised to the Scotch Bench), by a majority of fifteen over his opponent, Mr. Lamont, of Knockdu.

SALFORD.—Mr. John Chetham has issued an address to the electors of Salford; he advocates Parliamentary reform, extension of the suffrage, vote by ballot, and non-intervention. Mr. T. B. Potter, who has been solicited to stand, withdrew his name in favour of Mr. Chetham.

TRALEE.—The candidates for Tralee are a Mr. McKenna, a bank manager, and The O'Donoghue, who appears to have some special reasons for seeking a new seat.

THURSO.—Mr. Frederick Martin Williams, the eldest son of Mr. William Williams, of Tregulow, comes forward as the Conservative candidate for Truro, in the room of Mr. Montague Smith, now elevated to the judicial bench. Mr. Smith was, last election, at the head of the poll, and as the position of the Conservative party has since then been greatly improved on the register, there is no doubt of Mr. Williams's success.

WESTMINSTER.—General Sir De Lacy Evans, M.P. for Westminster, has intimated that it is not his intention again to seek a seat in Parliament. Failing health is the cause of the gallant veteran's retirement from public life.

LAMBETH.—In anticipation of a vacancy in the representation of the borough of Lambeth being caused by the retirement of Mr. W. Williams from Parliamentary life, Mr. Cave, who was Sheriff of London and Middlesex the year before last, has announced his intention to become a candidate in conjunction with Mr. H. Doulton, one of the sitting members. Mr. Hinde Palmer, Q.C., son-in-law of the Right Hon. C. Tennison D'Eyncourt, who for many years represented the borough, is also mentioned as a candidate.

EAST SURREY.—Mr. Brodric, a son of Viscount Midleton, intends offering himself as a candidate for the representation of East Surrey at the next election. Mr. Alcock and Mr. Locke King, the sitting members, will offer themselves for re-election.

MAIDSTONE.—Mr. Edward Ladd Betts, of Preston Hall, and Mr. J. Wardlaw will contest the representation of Maidstone at the next general election with Mr. Charles Buxton and Mr. Lee, the sitting members.

NEWPORT.—Mr. C. Wykeham Martin, formerly member for West Kent, has announced his intention of becoming a candidate for the representation of the borough of Newport, Isle of Wight, at the next general election.

WOODSTOCK.—Lord Alfred Churchill has issued an address to the electors of Woodstock announcing that, the opinions which he entertains "being no longer in harmony with the influence that supported his previous election," he shall be reluctantly compelled to relinquish all further claims upon them when Parliament is dissolved.

TAUNTON.—Mr. Barclay (of the firm of brewers), who unsuccessfully contested the representation of this borough some years ago, will be a candidate, on Liberal principles, at the next general election. Mr. E. W. Cox, the barrister, who professes Conservative principles, will offer himself for the seat which it is expected will become vacant by the retirement of Mr. G. Cavendish Bentinck. Mr. Arthur Mills, one of the sitting members, will offer himself for re-election.

POOLE.—Mr. Waring, a railway contractor, has announced his intention of contesting the representation of Poole at the next general election.

FROME.—Sir Henry Rawlinson is announced as the Liberal candidate at the next general election. It is understood that Lord E. Thynne, the sitting member, will seek re-election.

HONITON.—Mr. Richards, a Welsh gentleman, has announced his intention of contesting the representation of Honiton with Mr. A. Baillie Cochrane and Mr. Moffat at the next general election.

BARNSTABLE.—It is understood that Mr. H. Gwyn, of Duffryn, Neath, will contest this borough at the general election. Mr. Gwyn is a staunch Conservative and a warm supporter of the Church, a useful magistrate, and a considerate landlord.

EMIGRATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.—The official annual return of the emigration from the United Kingdom during the year 1884 shows a total exodus of 208,900 souls. The emigration from Liverpool was 125,445 people; from London, 24,420; from Plymouth, 7483; from Southampton, 5081; and from other ports in England and Wales, 221—making a total of 162,650 from England. The emigration from Scotland consisted of 10,436 souls, of whom 10,409 sailed from ports in the Clyde. Ireland yielded 35,814 emigrants, of whom 25,660 sailed from Cork, 452 from Galway, 8832 from Londonderry, and 870 from other ports. The native origin of the emigrants appear to be—56,618 English, 15,035 Scotch, 115,428 Irish, 16,942 foreigners, and 4877 not distinguished; and their destination—147,042 to the United States, 12,721 to the North American colonies, 40,942 to the Australian colonies, and 8195 to other places. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in the emigration of 1864 of 14,858 persons; the decrease from English ports being 12,559 souls, and from Irish ports 5003; while there was an increase from Scotch ports of 2305. The decrease consisted of 4625 English, 195 Scotch, 963 Irish, and 19,184 whose native origin was not distinguished; while there was an increase of 9109 foreigners. The North American colonies suffer a decrease of 5362, and Australia 12,112; while the United States gain an increase of 229, and other places of 2387.

A ROMANCE OF THE HAREM.—A Constantinople letter says:—"Rare as are conversions from Mussulmanism to Christianity, or from the latter to Islamism, fewer still are the instances in which the proselytes to either faith are women. One of these very exceptional cases has, however, just occurred, in which the neophyte is a young Belgian girl, named Cordelier—the niece of the proprietress of a well-known English shop in Pera—who, despite all the popular errors as to the status of women in the Prophet's paradise, has risked everything and gone boldly over to the faith of Mecca for love of a seductive young Bey. For some months past she has been in the habit of going frequently to harems in Stamboul to take millinery orders, and, in the course of these visits, appears to have made the acquaintance of the young Effendi in question. The acquaintanceship was entirely unknown to her aunt, who, on her sudden disappearance, on Sunday week, remained for several hours in anxious ignorance of her whereabouts. Late in the evening, however, a note from the fair runaway put an end to her relative's suspense by announcing the step she had taken, and firmly stating her determination to embrace her lover's faith, in spite of every opposition. A personal interview, on the following day, at the Turkish house near the Athazar where she had taken sanctuary, failed to shake this resolution; and, accordingly, on Tuesday she went before the cadl and made the first of the necessary declarations which precede formal admission into the pale of Islam. The Belgian Legation then interfered, and, later in the week, the young convert—viz. is about nineteen years of age and possesses the buxom personal attractions which are dear to the eyes of Eastern connoisseurs—was brought before the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in company with her national dragoman. Here, again, she declared her resolute purpose to abjure Christianity, in spite of all that either A'ali Pacha or the dragoman could do to urge reflection before finally committing herself to so grave a step. In view of this obstinacy, the Belgian authorities now deny her right to make the change, on the ground of non-age; and, as the Porte temporarily accedes to the objection, her final reception into Mussulmanism is suspended until the receipt from Brussels of specific proof of her age. The affair has been the nine days' talk of Pera."

THE LATE M. PROUDHON.

OUR readers, we are sure, will be pleased with the opportunity we this week afford them of looking upon the likeness of Pierre Joseph Proudhon; for we all like to know what manner of men those are who make a mark upon the history of their time, and occupy, if even for a time only, a prominent place in the attention of the world. This M. Proudhon did; and although, perhaps, he has left few disciples behind him, and has not impressed mankind with a deep belief in the doctrines he taught, still few men have been more praised by one section of society, and abused by another, than the writer who lately passed away from the sphere of public action. It will be unnecessary to go into details of M. Proudhon's career now, as we published a pretty full memoir of him a fortnight since, to which our readers can easily refer. A curious incident occurred on the occasion of M. Proudhon's funeral. He had given special directions that none of the ordinary trappings of woe were to be displayed at his burial; and in accordance with this request, the custom, which is usual in France, of hanging up black drapery in front of the house where the corpse lay, was omitted; and a regiment of Guards, and another of the Line, happened to be returning from exercise, and had to pass M. Proudhon's residence just before the funeral procession started. The troops came up with banners displayed and bands playing, and this was at first supposed by the crowd which had assembled to be intended as an insult to the memory of the deceased. Cries indicative of this feeling were uttered, when it speedily appeared that the idea was erroneous, for the commanding officers were no sooner made aware of the mournful circumstances than they ordered the bands to cease playing and the regimental flags to be lowered. The Line regiment went even further than this, for the band played the Dead March in "Saul" till beyond view of the house where M. Proudhon's remains lay—a mark of respect which was repaid by the crowd by vivas for the Line. A few days after M.

Proudhon's death it was reported that the Government had offered a pension to his widow. This, it appears, was incorrect; and, indeed, it is said that the friends in whose hands the affairs of M^{me}. Proudhon are left have decided that no public subscription, or other similar provision for the children of the deceased, will be accepted.

THE SPANISH ROYAL MAIL STEAM-SHIP MALLORCA.

OUR Engraving represents the new paddle-wheel steam-boat Mallorca, which was launched in November last from the yard, at Cardiff, of the builder, Mr. Norman Scott Russell, son of the eminent shipbuilder. The vessel, which is the first iron steamer built in that port, and has excited great interest in the large iron and coal district of South Wales, is owned by a Spanish Royal Mail Company, and is intended to run between Barcelona and the rich island of Majorca. She is 230 ft. long, 26 ft. broad, and 15 ft. deep; and is propelled by engines of 190 nominal horse-power, on the oscillating principle; and on her trial-trip, which was in every way satisfactory, she obtained the guaranteed speed of twelve knots an hour. She is built on Mr. Scott Russell's longitudinal principle, without the usual frames, and has obtained the highest classification at Lloyd's. The great strength afforded by this mode of construction, which is so necessary in the long and shallow steamers which are every day being built, was exhibited, on the trial, in the entire absence of vibration, so usual in steamships. Her cabins are handsomely fitted and decorated, and the ship herself is an elegant model.

A TRIAL BEFORE THE SCHOOLMASTER.

WE have had occasion, in a former Number, to speak of that Dusseldorf school of painting which has for the last few years been so admirably represented; a school which, while it is rigidly faithful to reality, and is distinguished for its careful

rendering of detail, is, at the same time, remarkable for the completeness with which it conveys to the spectator the stories sought to be indicated in its pictures.

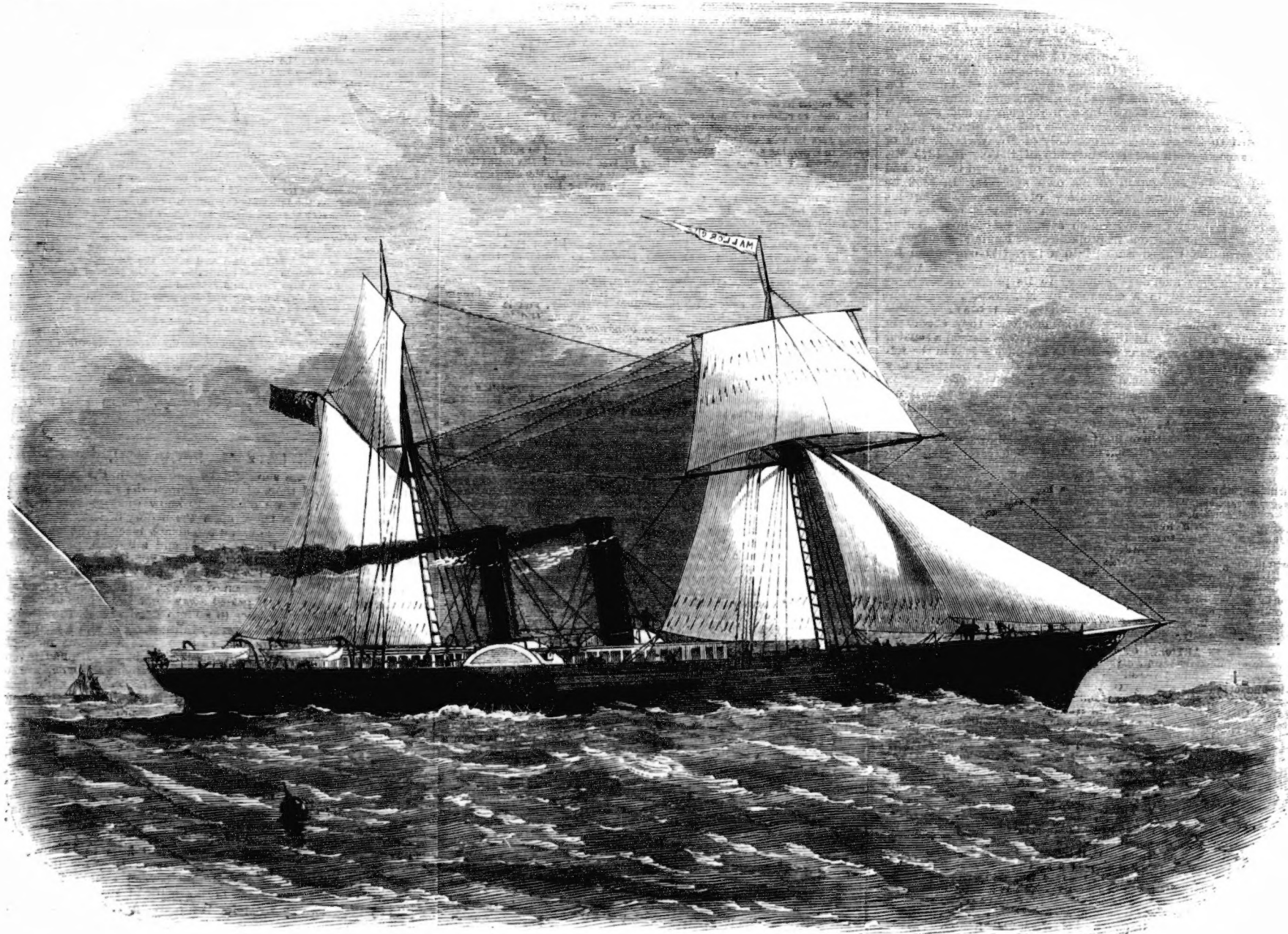
Our Engraving will convey to the reader a very definite impression of the style of a new painter in one of the most successful of modern schools.



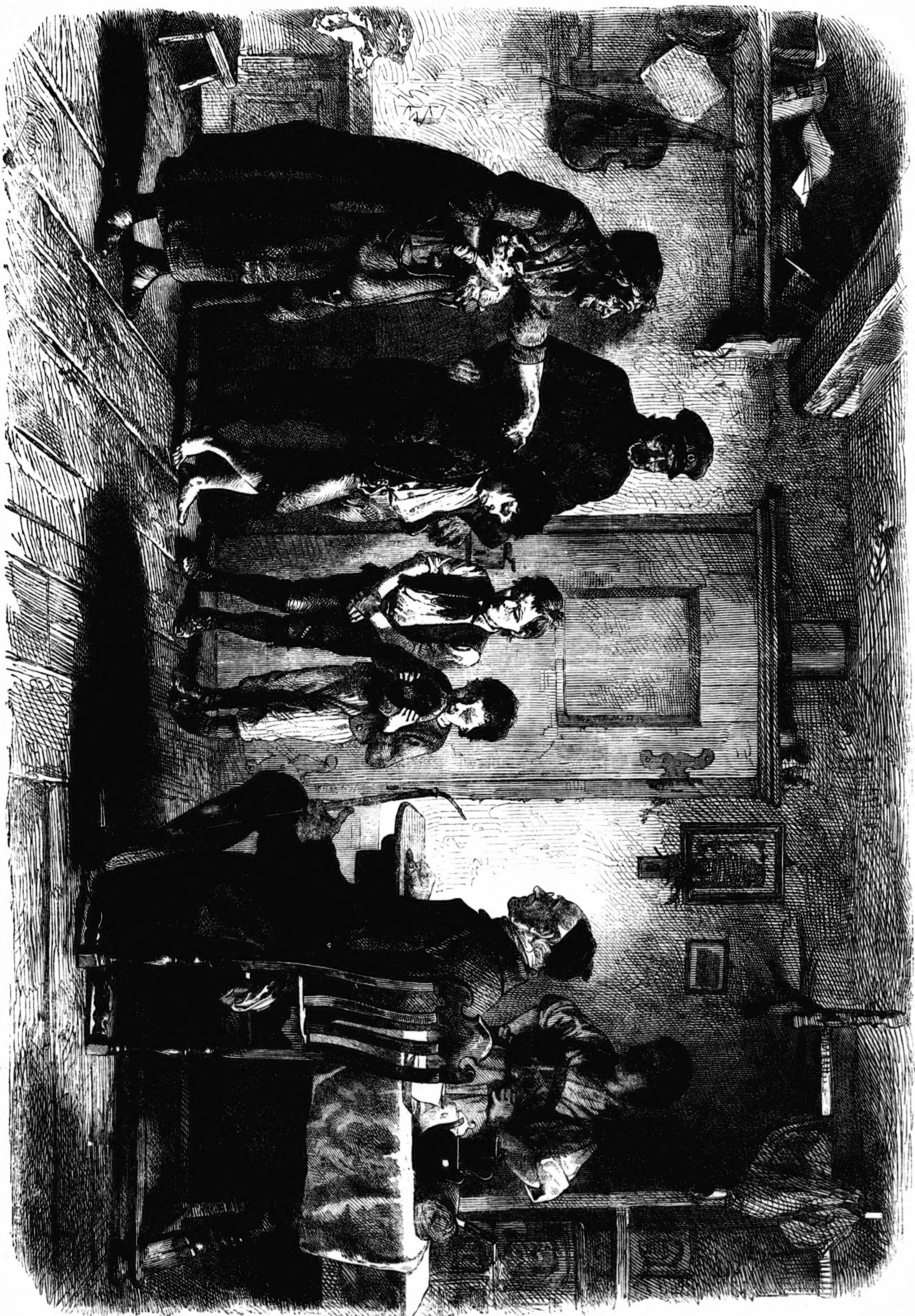
THE LATE PIERRE JOSEPH PROUDHON.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NADAR.)

One of the youngest, but at the same time one of the most distinguished, of the Dusseldorf painters is Mr. Benjamin Bantier, and our Engraving represents one of his works, which serves admirably to represent the characteristics of the school to which he belongs. There is something wonderfully suggestive about this "trial scene." The solemn judicial rigidity of the schoolmaster, whose very face and attitude could belong to no one but a pedagogue; the hypocritical whine of the two minor culprits, who are just in danger of a whipping, but of nothing more serious; the incorrigible sullenness of the principal offender, who has evidently come to be regarded as a suspicious character, and runs about shoeless and neglected—a warning and a terror to all good children, and a most unlucky companion to any chance associate whom he may persuade to join him in inevitable mischief. The schoolmaster's buxom daughter has before now felt a gleam of pity for the neglected, misguided little wretch; but she had never before suspected him of the gross and wanton cruelty proclaimed by the garrulous old woman whose pet kitten has been the victim of his brutal sport.

Things look awkward for this young scapegrace at last, for he is in the grim clutch of the old representative of law and order, and it will be well for him if the schoolmaster consent to deal out summary chastisement without committing him to the magistrate. From the grave importance of his face, and his evident belief in his powers of extracting evidence, it may be believed that he will consent to spoil the rod rather than spare the child; and, if ever a boy seemed to be in a position requiring the aid of that useful birchen implement, it is assuredly the urchin who already anticipates his punishment.



THE NEW SPANISH MAIL STEAM-SHIP MALLORCA.



A TRIAL BEFORE THE SCHOOLMASTER—(FROM A PICTURE BY H. BAILEY.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 247.

THE MORIBUND PARLIAMENT.

THE seventh Session of the sixth Parliament in the reign of Queen Victoria has commenced. Dod, in his *Parliamentary Companion*, tells us that the Session of 1864 was the fifth, but herein Dod is wrong. There was a Session in 1859, in which year this Parliament was elected; and, as there has been a Session in every succeeding year, the Session of 1864 was obviously the sixth, and this is the seventh. And this, in all probability, will be the last. By the Queen's grace the life of this Parliament may be prolonged until May 31, 1866. But it is nearly certain that her Majesty will not allow it to live out its natural term, but will give it its *coup de grace* sometime during this year. Whether the stroke will be delivered in the spring or in the autumn nobody can with certainty foretell. If her Majesty's Opposition should be bellicose and push matters to extremity, her Majesty, by advice of her Ministers, will promptly dissolve; but if, on the other hand, her Majesty's Opposition shall be reasonably peaceful, it is understood that there will be no dissolution till the autumn, perhaps not till November, when the best of the shooting will be over and hunting scarcely begun. In any case, however, there can be little doubt that this Session is the last of the present Parliament. If Lord Palmerston should be able to carry on until November, this Parliament will have reached an age greater than that of any other Parliament since the first of George I., which met on the 21st of March, 1715, and was dissolved March 10, 1722. That Parliament was elected under the Triennial Act; but, on the allegation that a Popish faction was designing to renew the rebellion within this kingdom, and the report of an invasion from abroad, it was enacted (1 George I. c. 38) that henceforth the natural life of Parliaments, including the one then sitting, should be seven years, and not three, as theretofore. The Act that made the change is the famous Septennial Act, which, though often assailed with great violence, still remains in force. This Parliament will then certainly attain to a great age; be very old, if not venerable; perhaps the oldest Parliament we have had for 150 years. Indeed, a bird has whistled in our ear that the noble Lord at the head of her Majesty's Government means, if possible, that this shall be. He is the oldest Premier that ever held the reins of Government. He wants also to be able to boast that he has kept Parliament together longer than any other Premier could during the last century and a half. So whistles our little bird.

PREPARATION FOR COMPANY.

Nine times—by George! it's ten, now we think of it—we have described the opening of Parliament in these columns. About the mere ceremony, then, we need say but little; for our readers must by this time know as much about it as we do. On Monday we went down to Westminster Palace to reconnoitre, and found that it was in the hands of an army of upholsters, carpenters, cleaners, scourers, sempstresses, and the like, all sedulously plying their callings with hammers, scrubbing-brushes, dusters, and needles, to make everything whole, clean, and ship-shape for the coming event. On Tuesday, when we entered, the work was done and the workers had vanished. The tessellated pavement, which was but lately coated with dust, looked bright as new. The tall, massive, brass candelabra shone resplendent as gold. The silvered faces of the three clocks were quite radiant. Even the policemen appeared as if they had undergone an extra brush from top to toe; and inside the house, though there was nothing new, all the woodwork, and the leather, and the carpets, and the brass, and the glass had been so scrubbed, and rubbed, and brushed, and polished that it was evident at a glance that company was expected.

THE COMPANY ARRIVES.

And soon the company began to arrive. First and foremost came, as is his wont, Mr. White. First to come and last to go is the characteristic of the hon. member for Brighton. Others, however, speedily and rapidly followed him; and by one o'clock, albeit Mr. Speaker was not expected till a quarter to two, there were at least fifty members present. Notably there was Mr. Edward Baines, in exuberant spirits, with a Reform Bill in his head, if not in his pocket. Mr. Locke King, too, quiet and grave, with another. Mr. Edward Forster, also, who will support both. Lord Robert Montagu, and Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, and Mr. Bentinck, who will support neither. Colonel French, you may be sure, was present; for when did the house open without Colonel French? And, alas! here is Mr. Vincent Scully. Hah! we shall not get away so soon to night, then, as we thought; for he will certainly speak, and, when he begins, who can say when he will end? Mr. Kinnaird, of course, is in attendance, if we could but catch a glimpse of him. He was chatting at the bar just now, but he is flown, as his manner is. Restless and swift as a swallow is the hon. member for Perth. And Mr. Jackson was there, and inevitable Colonel Sykes, and Mr. George Hadfield, and —. But we must cut short our catalogue.

DEATH.

One more honourable gentleman, though, we must mention—to wit, Mr. Gregson. He, too, was in the crowd, joking in his quiet way, and to all appearance well as usual. But where is he now? Gone, gone for ever. He was present at prayers, went to the Lords with Mr. Speaker, heard the Speech read in the house, listened to the movers and seconders of the Address, dined at the restaurant with three or four friends, and in less than twelve hours he was dead—gone—and the place which but so lately knew him shall know him no more for ever. Alas! what shadows we are! Mr. Gregson was member for Lancaster, and had represented that borough for about fifteen years. He was a China merchant, of the firm of Gregson and Co. He was a shrewd man, could speak well when he chose to try, and was universally respected.

THE HOUSE CONSTITUTED.

At a quarter to two, whilst the assembled members were still chatting and gossiping, suddenly the doorkeeper appeared at the bar and shouted "Mr. Speaker!" when every man scuttled at once to his place. Mr. Speaker looked much as usual—not florid, for that he never was; but not more than commonly pale; albeit, rumour will have it that he is not over well, and that he will be very glad to get the Session finished, that he may retire to enjoy all the ease and comfort which rest, a peerage, and a handsome pension can afford. Prayers were read, as usual, by Mr. Merivale, the Chaplain; and then, having nothing to do—or rather no power to do anything—until it should be duly constituted by her Majesty's Commission, the House—Mr. Speaker, sitting at the table—again resolved itself into a chat; but for no long time; for soon the Sergeant-at-Arms arrives, proceeds to the door, and shuts it with a bang; and then, Sir Augustus Clifford having from without given his three knocks, the doors fly open. "Black Rod!" shouts the doorkeeper; and Sir Augustus, resplendent in blue and gold, with his ribbon of the Garter across his breast, marches up the House, bowing low at every two or three steps; and, having arrived at the table, summons her Majesty's Commons to the House of Lords to hear her Majesty's most gracious Speech, and to be duly constituted, that it may proceed to the consideration of divers urgent and weighty affairs forthwith. Black Rod having unburdened himself of his message, backs out of the House; for it is not allowed even this high functionary, who is after all only a servant, to turn his back upon the majesty of the people. Mr. Speaker, when the message had been delivered, rose and went in proper state to the Upper House. What was done there we need not say; for is it not all written in every newspaper in the realm? In a quarter of an hour, or it might be more, Mr. Speaker returned, and then the House suspended its sitting until a quarter to four.

THE PREMIER.

No Cabinet Minister was present in the morning, nor was the Leader of the Opposition; but in the evening most of the Ministers were in attendance, and Disraeli too. Lord Palmerston came down about half-past four, looking and walking much as he did last Session—better rather than worse—and seemed to be, during the whole of the evening, in capital spirits. This is the sixth year of his government; six times has he entered the house at its opening as Prime

Minister. Will this be the last time? Who can tell? If the noble Lord had no stronger opponent than the right honourable gentleman opposite—albeit he may be backed by never so strong a party—we fancy that his Lordship might prove invulnerable for another six years. But he is eighty years old, and a stronger than any political opponent must soon at the longest oust him from his place. Besides, it is shrewdly suspected that he will not attempt, even should the elections return him a majority, to lead another Parliament. The present House is old, and quiet and submissive; but a new House will be active, lively, and restive—all too much so to be guided by so old a leader. It will, moreover, come with new thoughts, new ideas, new projects. Reform—since the delivery of that speech by Lord Amberley—is rising into prominence; and, unless the auguries prove false, will not be laid again by any arts of which the noble Lord is master. The followers of the noble Lord gave him a lusty cheer as he entered the house, which he deserved; for with all his faults he is, if nothing more, an indomitable old man—and Englishmen worship courage.

THE MOVER OF THE ADDRESS.

The mover and seconder of the Address are both strangers here. Sir Hedworth Williamson entered the house last year. Mr. Hanbury Tracy, late in the year before. Sir Hedworth Williamson is member for North Durham. He succeeded Lord Adolphus Vane Tempest. The hon. Baronet presented himself in his blue uniform of Captain-Commandant of the 1st Durham Artillery Volunteers. It is the custom, as probably all our readers know, for the mover and seconder of the Address to appear in a Court costume, or in uniform if they belong to the Army or Navy. Sir Hedworth never spoke before in the House. And there is good reason for his silence, for, in truth, public speaking is not his gift. His speech may have been tolerably well put together, but from the gallery we could only now and then hear a word. He stood quite still whilst he delivered it—just opened his mouth and let the words flow evenly out, without inflection or enforcing action, as water comes from a pipe. Cheers there were none, except now and then from his friends to encourage him when the stream seemed about to fail. But do we censure Sir Hedworth? Not at all. No man can go beyond his gifts. On the whole, he did his work decently enough; he got up a speech, and repeated it. Indeed, he deserves praise, for he did not attempt the oratorical, and, moreover, his speech was delightfully short. Sir Hedworth is, it seems, a nephew, through his mother, of the first Lord Ravensworth.

THE SECONDER.

The Hon. Charles Douglas Richard Hanbury Tracy, who seconded the Address, is a son of Lord Sudeley. He once belonged to the Navy, and was at Bomarsund and at the Battle of Fatsham Creek, in China; but he resigned his commission in 1863. The hon. gentleman appeared in the blazing scarlet uniform of a Deputy Lieutenant, and, being a very small man, and his clothes not fitting him very well, he did not appear to advantage—looked, at the distance we sat from him, like a lump of red-hot coal. Of his speech we have nothing to say, for, having listened intently for some three minutes and found that we could hear nothing distinctly, we beat a retreat. Even if we could have heard, why should we stay? Is not all this speechifying on these occasions, from Queen's Speech downwards, a sham? The truth is, that this old ceremony, which once had a meaning, is now, like many other ceremonies, utterly meaningless and dead. Royal speeches now never tell us anything that we want to know, or did not know before, and speeches on the Address are echoes of Royal speeches.

There was no amendment to the Address. No notable member spoke, the principal topics discussed were Irish, and one half the time was occupied by Mr. Vincent Scully, who next day proposed an amendment on bringing up the report on the Address, and was beaten, of course. Need we say that it was a dull night? A duller night we never passed in the House, and if this night be the foreshadowing of the coming Session, we fear that we shall have hard work to keep up the interest of these articles. Inner Life! It would seem that there will be neither inner nor outer life this year.

Imperial Parliament.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

Parliament was opened, by Commission, on Tuesday afternoon. The ceremony was a very simple one. A few ladies assembled in the House of Lords and occupied the back seats usually taken by the Peers. In the galleries there were also a few ladies. As soon as the Royal Commissioners entered, the Lord Chancellor directed the Usher of the Black Rod to summon the House of Commons; and in a few moments afterwards the Speaker, in his state robes, and accompanied by a few members of the House of Commons, appeared at the bar.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then rose and read the following Message from the Queen:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded to assure you that her Majesty has great satisfaction in recurring again to the advice and assistance of her Parliament.

The negotiations in which the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia were engaged with the King of Denmark were brought to a conclusion by a treaty of peace; and the communications which her Majesty receives from foreign Powers lead her to entertain a well-founded hope that no renewed disturbance of the peace of Europe is to be apprehended.

The civil war in North America still unhappily continues. Her Majesty remains steadfastly neutral between the contending parties, and would rejoice at a friendly reconciliation between them.

A Japanese daimio in rebellion against his Sovereign infringed the rights accorded by treaty to Great Britain and to certain other Powers; and, the Japanese Government having failed to compel him to desist from his lawless proceedings, the diplomatic agents and the naval commanders of Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and the United States of North America, undertook a combined operation for the purpose of asserting the rights which their respective Governments have obtained by treaty. That operation has been attended with complete success; and the result has afforded security for foreign commerce and additional strength to the Government of Japan, with which the relations of her Majesty are friendly.

Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

Her Majesty regrets that the conflict with some of the native tribes in New Zealand has not yet been brought to a close; but the successful efforts of her Majesty's regular forces, supported by those raised in the colony, have led to the submission of some of the insurgents, and those who are still in arms have been informed of the equitable conditions on which their submission would be accepted.

Her Majesty has had great satisfaction in giving her sanction to the meeting of a Conference of Delegates from her several North American provinces, who, on invitation from her Majesty's Governor-General, assembled at Quebec. Those delegates adopted resolutions having for their object a closer union of those provinces under a central government. If those resolutions shall be approved by the provincial Legislatures, a bill will be laid before you for carrying this important measure into effect.

Her Majesty rejoices at the general tranquillity of her Indian dominion; but her Majesty regrets that long-continued outrages on the persons and property of subjects of her Majesty, and for which no redress could be had, have rendered it necessary to employ a force to obtain satisfaction for the past and security for the future.

Her Majesty deeply laments the calamity which has recently occasioned great loss of life and property at Calcutta and at other places in India. Prompt assistance was rendered by the officers of the Government, and generous contributions have been made in various parts of India to relieve the sufferings which have thus been occasioned.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Her Majesty has directed the Estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you.

They have been prepared with every attention to economy, and with due regard to the efficiency of the public service.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that the general condition of the country is satisfactory, and that the revenue realises its estimated amount. The distress which prevailed in some of the manufacturing districts has greatly abated; and the Act passed for the encouragement of public works in those districts has been attended with useful results.

Ireland during the past year has had its share in the advantage of a good harvest, and trade and manufactures are gradually extending in that part of the kingdom.

Various measures of public usefulness will be submitted for your consideration.

Bills will be laid before you for the concentration of all the courts of law and equity, with their attendant offices, in a convenient site—a measure which her Majesty trusts will promote economy and dispatch in the administration of justice.

The important work for the revision of the statute law, already carried to a considerable extent by recent Acts of Parliament, will be completed by a bill that will be laid before you. Her Majesty hopes that this work may be a step towards the formation of a digest of the law.

Bills will also be submitted to your consideration for the amendment of the laws relating to patents for inventions, and for conferring on the County Courts an equitable jurisdiction in causes of small amount.

Your assistance will also be invited to give effect to certain recommendations made to the House of Commons, after inquiry directed by that House, into the operation of the laws regulating the relief of the poor.

A bill will be laid before you founded on the report of the Commission for inquiring into Public Schools; and her Majesty has directed that a Commission shall be issued to inquire into endowed and other schools in England which have not been included in the recent inquiries relating to popular education.

Her Majesty commits with confidence the great interests of the country to your wisdom and care, and she fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your councils, and may guide your deliberations to the attainment of the object of her constant solicitude, the welfare and happiness of her people.

THE ADDRESS.

LORD CHARLEMONT then moved that an Address in reply to the Speech be presented to her Majesty, and, having adverted to the principal questions to which the attention of Parliament had been called, and some statistics referring to the condition of Ireland to prove the gradual progress of that country, and maintained that, though some persons and parties were dissatisfied, the people were generally loyal.

LORD HOUGHTON seconded the motion, and, after referring to the treaty with France of 1852 and the confederation of the British North American Provinces, defended her Majesty's Government from the charge of having violated its neutrality in the civil war now waging in America. He denied that in any one instance it had ever departed from the policy of non-interference it had declared it would observe. As to the relations of England to foreign nations generally, he pointed out the important fact that wherever England was in arms it was entirely in self-defence. The domestic legislation in which they were asked to engage in the present Session would, he assumed, be of the same kind as that of former years. The measures to be proposed to them would mostly be of a practical character. He had hoped that in some manner they would have succeeded in broadening the basis of the Parliamentary representation; but that work was, perhaps, reserved for another and more ardent generation. He hoped, however, that some progress would be made in preparing a digest of the law of England, a measure that certainly ought to receive serious attention.

The Earl of DARBÝ described the Speech from the Throne as just the sort of speech that was likely to be addressed by an aged minister to a moribund Parliament, whose dissolution no event could postpone; so that all its experienced advisers could do was to find it some gentle occupation, and take care that its dying moments were not disturbed by any unnecessary excitement; whilst its physicians held the usual consultation, and pocketed their accustomed fees. The noble Earl then adverted to our relations with Brazil and the civil war in America, calling attention to the ingratitude with which the neutrality of this country had been met by the Government of Washington, who had given notice to terminate the Reciprocity Treaty and the agreement for securing the neutrality of the American lakes. Under these circumstances the noble Earl said he regarded with satisfaction the proposed confederation of the British North American provinces.

Earl GRANVILLE and Earl RUSSELL replied to the observations of the noble Earl, and the Address was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ADDRESS.

The Address was moved by Sir HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON and seconded by Mr. H. TRACY, and, after a rather tame debate, agreed to unanimously.

NEW MEMBERS AND NEW WRITS.

LORD COURTENAY took the oath and his seat for the city of Exeter; Lord A. HERVEY, for West Suffolk; Mr. MORRIS, for the Carmarthen burghs; Mr. WALDEGRAVE LESLIE, for Hastings; and Mr. DAVENPORT BROMLEY, for North Warwickshire. New writs were ordered to issue for the election of members for the borough of Tralee, the city of Cork, and the boroughs of Salford and Truro.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Several notices of motion were given. Among others, Sir G. GREY gave notice of a bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to prisons. The Attorney-General, a bill to supply means towards defraying the expense of providing courts of justice; also, a bill to alter the constitution, practice, and course of proceedings in the Court of Chancery in Ireland. Mr. COWPER, a bill to empower the Commissioners of Works to purchase a site for the erection of courts of justice. Sir J. PAKINGTON, a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the constitution and procedure of the Committee of Council on Education. Sir F. KELLY, for Tuesday, the 28th inst., a motion to the effect that, in any future remission of indirect taxation, the House should take into consideration the duty on malt, with a view to its early reduction and ultimate repeal. Mr. MOFFATT, a motion for the reappointment of the Committee to inquire into the operation of the bankruptcy Acts. Mr. HENNESSY, for the 21st inst., a motion for an address to the Crown on the state of Ireland. Sir F. KELLY, for Tuesday next, a bill to further amend the law of evidence and the practice of certain courts of justice.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REPORT ON THE ADDRESS.

The report of the Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, was brought up by Sir H. Williamson.

Mr. SCULLY moved, in accordance with the notice he had given the previous day, to substitute the following for the paragraph in the Address relating to the state of Ireland:—"We regret that the general condition of Ireland cannot be regarded as prosperous or satisfactory, and that multitudes of the inhabitants continue to emigrate to foreign countries through the want of remunerative employment at home."

Sir R. PEEL deprecated discussion, on the ground that a notice had been given by an hon. member opposite to bring the whole subject of Ireland before the House in a day or two.

After some remarks upon the same subject from Major Gavin and Mr. Brady, the House divided, and the amendment of Mr. Scully was negatived by sixty-seven to twelve.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE made some observations as to the state of the Army and Navy, after which the report of the Address was agreed to.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

BANKRUPTCY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in presenting some returns on the subject of bankruptcy, made a statement showing the enormously expensive character of the present mode of procedure, and said that when the report of the Committee of the House of Commons considering the question had been presented he should apply himself to the task of amending the law.

POOR LAW.

LORD HOUGHTON moved for a return of the numbers of unions or parishes that have availed themselves of the Act of July 29, 1864, enabling them to receive from the Metropolitan Board of Works the sum of money expended in relief of the casual poor; of the amount of money hitherto so expended; and of the unions where the guardians have provided new wards or other places of reception for this class of poor since the passing of the above-mentioned Act.

Earl GRANVILLE said there would be no objection to making the returns.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

More than an hour was occupied in the delivery of the bills which have undergone the ordeal of a scrutiny before the examiners on standing orders. When they had been gone through,

Mr. FOSTER pointed out many objections to the present number of gentlemen appointed to serve on private committees, and proposed that each committee should consist of three members instead of four.

After some discussion, the motion was negatived.

MONASTIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

Mr. NEWDEGATE gave notice that upon an early day he would call attention to the existing arrangements for the management and inspection of monastic establishments.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. BAINES gave notice of his intention on the first convenient day to move for leave to bring in a bill to extend the franchise in England and Wales.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Mr. M. GIBSON, in reply to Mr. Bentinck, stated that it was not the intention of her Majesty's Government, during the present Session, to introduce any measure with the view to the better prevention of railway accidents, or to take any steps founded upon the recommendations of the committee that sat upon the subject a few years ago.

BANKRUPTCY.

On the motion of Mr. MOFFAT, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the operation of the Bankruptcy Act, and report thereon.

Mr. Hadfield obtained leave, in Committee of the whole House, to introduce a bill to render it unnecessary to make and subscribe declarations as a qualification for offices and employment, and for other purposes.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1865.

THE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAMME.

SUPPOSING it to be true that "the nation is happy whose annals are dull," it is also true that the Parliament is happy whose proceedings are of a like character? We put this point in an interrogative form because we doubt the truth of the dictum. Vigour and activity seem to us very essential to life, and happiness; dullness and sloth, very near akin to death, and misery. But, supposing the maxim and its postulate contained in our first sentence to be true, then the present Parliament must be gratulated on the prospect of enjoying a happy old age. It has just entered upon its last Session, and will die a natural death shortly after its close, if it be allowed to live so long; and neither the programme laid before our legislators by the Government, nor their own proceedings on the opening night, give promise of anything save unrelieved dullness. The Queen's Speech—or, as it is now the fashion to call it, the Royal Message—does not suggest any topic that is likely to disturb the peace of the moribund Parliament; and, but for the little ripple on the surface caused by the Earl of Derby, the stream of oratory on Tuesday night would have been as dead as the water of a stagnant ditch. We will not, therefore, spend time in commenting on the debate in either house, but proceed to consider a few of the items in the programme submitted by her Majesty's Ministers.

Apart from the prospect of dullness for the Session—which dullness, we devoutly hope, will be broken by free "gagging" (to use a theatrical phrase) on the part of the Opposition and of independent members—the Ministerial programme shadows forth some useful legislation. The concentration of the law courts and the revision of the statutes, with the view of making a step towards the formation of a digest of the law, are measures of urgent and prime importance; and we earnestly hope that the Lord Chancellor—under whose superintendence, we presume, the revision of the statutes will be carried on—will be more successful in this work than he has been in the reform of the bankruptcy laws. All who have ever been in any way concerned in a lawsuit have had painful experience of the difficulty of knowing what is law and what is not, of securing harmony of judgments, and of obtaining that degree of attention from barristers and attorneys which is essential to the speedy and economical administration of justice; but which, as things now stand, are most difficult of attainment. Then we are promised a reform of the patent laws, and an extension of the jurisdiction of the County Courts—both very important matters, but upon which we need not comment till the nature of the Government propositions are better known. We may pass over the proposed legislation as to public schools with a like remark; but beg to press on Lord Palmerston's attention the educational destitution of his colleagues—as displayed in the composition of the Royal Message—when he is dealing with matters relating to mental culture. His Lordship lately impressed upon an audience assembled at Romsey the importance of plain and distinct penmanship; and, while we fully appreciate the value of this accomplishment—in common with all our brethren of the press, we have good reason for doing so—we would respectfully submit that correct diction and clear and forcible expression are of equal importance.

We have not yet mentioned the project which we think really the most important of those indicated in the Ministerial programme. We refer to reform of the laws relating to the relief of the poor. The poor laws are at present chokeful of absurdities and abuses. The narrow parish system ought to be entirely abrogated, both as regards rating and relief. The theory of our poor law is, that paupers should be maintained by the property of the country—interpreting the word property in a large and not in a narrow sense, so as to make it include property of all descriptions; but the effect of the

existing system is to throw the support of the poor, not upon the rich, but upon those who are themselves but little removed from the condition of paupers. In the West-End parishes of the metropolis there is much wealth and but little poverty; while in the East-End the exact converse obtains—there is much poverty and but little wealth. The poor are thus made to keep the poor, while the rich almost totally escape the burden; and the result, of course, is, that the poor are very badly kept. It is not to be wondered at, however much we may deplore it, that in the east of London poor-law officials should strive to save the parish funds, even at the cost of the lives of the paupers, for they know with how much difficulty those funds are obtained. If the area of rating were so extended as to make the rich parishes aid the poor ones, we should hear less of deaths from starvation and of the neglect of parish officials. The mode of collecting the rates at present in use is, besides, an expensive and clumsy one. Almost every parish has its own separate surveyor and collector, who have to be paid their salaries or percentages out of the rates, large portions of which are thus absorbed, and never reach the hands of the administrative officers at all. By having one set of machinery for imposing and collecting the rates over the whole metropolis, much of this unnecessary waste would be avoided. Then disputes as to settlement and the removal of paupers to their own parishes are often productive of more expense than the maintenance of the pauper would have entailed. Some amendment of the law in this respect is urgently needed. The effectual remedy would be to do away with the law of settlement altogether, and to give a right to relief wherever the necessity for it arose, without removal at all—a measure which a general rating would make easy of adoption, for the temptation to get rid of a pauper by passing him from one parish to another would not exist. We do not know what the Government measure may be; but of this we are certain, that no bill will be satisfactory which does not embody the changes we have indicated.

There are some subjects which are conspicuous by their absence from the Ministerial programme. There is no mention made in the Royal Message of Parliamentary reform; but then few persons, if any, expected that there would be; and so we are not surprised at the omission. There will be individual members, no doubt, who will propose partial changes in our political system; but no general measure will be proposed, and we believe no measure whatever of that kind will be passed, during this Session. It is a question, however, which must be taken up in earnest by-and-by. There was a general expectation that Lord Westbury intended to propose the substitution of stipendiary magistrates for justices of the peace throughout England. His Lordship, however, appears to have abandoned the intention, if he ever entertained it. Perhaps a dread of squire and parson influence at the general election deterred the Government from venturing upon this salutary reform; but it is one which must also be carried out ere long. The judicial vagaries of the "great unpaid" are becoming too flagrant to be endured; and when we see how much better the system of stipendiary magistrates—the administration of the law by men trained for the task—works in our large cities, and in Scotland and Ireland, its introduction into the rural districts of England is only a question of time. Motions in reference to the malt tax, the constitution of the Court of Ecclesiastical Appeal, town sewage and the purification of our rivers, capital punishments, the law of evidence, and other topics, have already been placed on the notice-paper; and, what with these subjects and perhaps occasional party skirmishes, Parliament will probably manage to rub decently through the Session; but its last days, we fear, will be dull, whether they be useful and happy or not.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCESS IMPERIAL OF BRAZIL and her husband, the Count d'Eu, arrived at Southampton on Wednesday morning. They were received by several members of the Orleans family and other persons of distinction.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE, it is said, will shortly superintend the compilation of a small volume relative to Marie Antoinette and her daughter, the Princess Elizabeth. We shall soon be wanting a considerably enlarged edition of Walpole's "Royal and Noble Authors."

THE DUKE and DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT were snowed up in their carriage near Tedworth the other day, but were dug out.

THE PRUSSIAN MINISTER OF MARINE has requested authority to contract a loan of £9,000,000 for the construction of a fleet.

CONVOCAION was prorogued on Wednesday until the 14th inst., when it will meet for the dispatch of business.

COUNTLESS DANNER, the morganatic wife of the late King of Denmark, is about to marry Count Swilfwerstolpe, descendant of a very ancient Swedish family. The marriage will take place at Nice.

A FEDERAL AGENT was recently detected enlisting men for America at the Cape of Good Hope, and had to decamp.

SOME hopes are now entertained of the screw steam-ship Amphion, 1700 tons, being got off the sands at Sherringham, Norfolk.

A DRINKING-FOUNTAIN IN BOW-CHURCHYARD, London, exploded on Saturday last in consequence of the water having become impregnated with gas.

VISCOUNT AMBERLEY has been invited by the Leeds Reform Registration Society to become a candidate for the representation of that borough at the next election.

GENERAL McCLELLAN, accompanied by his wife, child, and a servant, arrived in Liverpool on Sunday, and left next day for London, en route for the Continent.

THE BROTHERS LA GALA, the notorious brigands, were, on the 1st inst., taken out of the prison at Santa Maria, at Naples, to be shipped off to Sardinia.

THE ROOF of a large room in the Chartered Gas Company's works at Westminster fell in on Saturday last, burying four men. They were got out severely injured, but it is hoped their lives will be saved.

THE TOMB OF WILLIAM BUTTON, a Bishop of Bath and Wells famous for his sanctity in the thirteenth century, has just been discovered in Wells Cathedral.

AN OLD SOLDIER OF ST. NICHOLAS (Styria), while on his deathbed a few months ago, left by will to the Emperor of Austria a sum of 10 florins (£1). An Imperial decree now orders the payment of that sum into the Emperor's private treasury.

MR. MONTAGUE SMITH, Q.C., M.P. for Truro, has been appointed to the judgeship in the Court of Common Pleas, vacated by the resignation of Mr. Justice Williams. Mr. Montague Smith was called to the Bar in the Middle Temple in 1835, and received a silk gown in 1853.

THE HANDEL FESTIVAL is fixed to take place, at Sydenham, at the end of June.

DR. PERCY, F.R.S., has been appointed by the First Commissioner of Works to succeed Sir Goldsworthy Gurney in the management of the warming and ventilation of the Houses of Parliament.

GENERAL BUTLER endeavoured, during his stay in Washington, to secure the appointment of an intelligent negro boy as cadet at West Point, but did not meet with much encouragement.

MAJOR CHEURET, of the 20th Regiment, in garrison at Lons-le-Saulnier, has addressed a letter, in the name of the officers of that regiment, stating that the pretended Captain Bruxelles (not Bruxelles), whom a paragraph in the *Abeille* of Fontainebleau recently asserted to have returned to France after thirty-three years of captivity in Africa, is an impostor.

THE BENCHERS of the several Inns of Court have decided that, in future, ordained clergymen shall be eligible for call to the Bar.

PRINCE JOHN OF GLUCKSBURG, uncle of the King of the Hellenes, has quitted Athens in consequence, it is said, of a quarrel with Count Spouneck, who is reported to have resigned and to be about to leave Greece.

THE NOBLES OF MOSCOW have resolved, by 270 to 37 votes, to petition the Czar for a free deliberative Parliament, to consist of two Chambers, one composed of nobles and the other of popular representatives.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has caused it to be officially announced through the Embassy at Washington that Americans who have become naturalised subjects of the Queen in the colonies are not entitled to British protection beyond the provincial lines.

TWO HUNDRED BRETON PEASANTS left St. Nazaire last week for Suez, where they are to be employed on the works of the canal. They came chiefly from the department of Finistère and Morbihan. Another detachment is soon to follow.

SOME ASSISTANTS in a Leeds drapery establishment were talking in their bed-room of robberies, when one of them, being timorous, looked under the bed, and found a man there, armed with a chisel. The fellow rushed at them with threats, and, before they had recovered from the fright, escaped.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT has awarded a prize, and cotton seed in abundance, to twenty-four landholders of the Roman Campagna, for their last experiments in cotton cultivation. Several prelates and two religious orders figure on the list of cultivators.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN has commissioned Captain Wemyss Anderson to paint, for the White House, at Washington, "The Last of the Alabama." It appears that the President's attention was directed to this English artist by photographs, extensively circulated in America, taken from a previous picture on the same subject.

THE STEAM-SHIP EARL PERCY was wrecked last week on the Spanish Battery rocks at the mouth of the Tyne, while on a voyage from Hamburg to Newcastle. The crew and passengers were got off in safety.

MR. SEWARD, it is affirmed in Washington, will, after March next, replace Mr. Adams as American Minister in London. It is also rumoured that ex-Governor Morgan, of New York, will succeed Mr. Fessenden as Secretary to the Treasury at Washington.

THE DIGNITY OF QUEEN'S COUNSEL will forthwith be conferred upon Mr. Clement Milward and Mr. T. Webster, of the Northern Circuit; upon Mr. Hardinge Giffard, of the South Wales Circuit; Mr. Joseph Brown, of the Home Circuit; and Sir Thomas Phillips, of the Parliamentary Bar. Mr. E. C. Robinson, of the Home Circuit, is at the same time to be raised to the degree of Serjeant-at-Law.

AN OLD SOLDIER died at Mirecourt, in the Vosges, France, on the 21st of January last, who, by a singular coincidence, was on duty on Jan. 21, 1793 at the foot of the scaffold on which Louis XVI. was executed. He subsequently served in the wars of the Republic of the first Empire. His name was Fischer.

MGR. DE VILLE, a private chamberlain of the Pope, having had some pictures seized by the Pontifical Customs, complained to the Minister of Commerce; failing to obtain satisfaction, he addressed himself to the Ambassador of France, and claimed his protection. Thereupon, the Ambassador sent a note to Cardinal Antonelli, who presented it to the Pope. Pius IX. wrote on the margin the following laconic reply:—"A week allowed Mgr. De Ville to go from Rome."

THE BROMPTON ORATORY.

FOR some time past considerable excitement has been produced in consequence of the proceedings which have taken place in relation to the Brompton "Oratorians," one of whom, known as Father Bowden, has, it is alleged, been instrumental in removing a girl from the care of her mother, and has induced her to enter a Roman Catholic reformatory. Our readers, who are already acquainted with most of the particulars of this case, will also have learned that the charge has not at present been so substantiated as to warrant (in the opinion of the magistrate before whom the matter has been brought) the issue of a summons either against Father Bowden or any of the other persons declared to have been implicated in an illegal proceeding.

The Oratory at Brompton, however, has for several weeks been of such public interest that we publish an Engraving in our columns representing the building.

The foundation of this institution originated with Dr. Newman, who, having organised a similar establishment in Birmingham, succeeded in calling together several of his followers in London who had seceded from the Anglican Church and forming them into a religious community, under the rules of St. Philip Neri.

It may be remembered that this brotherhood was first established in King William-street, Strand, in the building now known as the Polygraphic Hall; but that, having increased in numbers, and the private resources of the fraternity being ample, it was determined to erect a complete church and institution of the order at Brompton, where during the time of the last Great Exhibition the public had ample opportunity of witnessing the services which were held daily, and included all the observances of the Roman Catholic Church.

Before the nature of the Oratorian Brotherhood can well be understood, it is necessary to refer to the order, of which Filippo de Neri of Florence was the head, in the sixteenth century, after he had fixed his residence at Rome; and assuredly, if his professed followers are careful to observe his example, it would be difficult to imagine that they can ultimately suffer by any publicity which may be given to their acts. Filippo de Neri turned his whole attention to the relief of the poor, the instruction of children, and the reclaiming of the vicious; and in the pursuit of his benevolent intentions displayed a sincerity and single-heartedness which has handed down his name as that of a virtuous, religious, and good man, whose influence on the clergy of his day cannot well be overestimated. He founded an asylum for poor and sick strangers, and other helpless and houseless persons; and, having taken holy orders, associated himself with Baronius (who afterwards became a Cardinal) in the work of instructing the poor and relieving the destitute, attending the sick, and pleading the cause of the oppressed in courts of justice. The cheerful piety of Neri, and the heartiness with which he entered into the harmless amusements of the people, gave him additional influence; and, in order to draw young persons from the attractions of the public theatres, he founded musical entertainments of a sacred character, which were called oratorios. At first these were hymns sung after the sermon, and accompanied with instrumental music; but they afterwards took a sacred-dramatic form, and the parts were sung by performers stationed in the gallery. The chapel being called, in Italian, the Oratorio, or place for prayers, gave its name to these performances; and the order founded by Neri were consequently known as "Fathers of the Oratory," or Oratorians.

The institution at Brompton, then, is founded upon the regulations which Philip of Neri adopted, and although the brethren live in community, the establishment is not monastic. Indeed, the Oratorians, following the rule of their order, are not bound by any perpetual vows, for it was the opinion of Neri that the spirit of charity should be the only common bond—a regulation which included a freedom sufficient to account for the rapid spread of these "congregations" over France and Italy.

The order now established at Brompton, however, though it dispenses with vows, exacts from its members an initiation, the severity of which, it is said, is a sufficient test for the sincerity of those who enter the community; and, while entirely differing from regular monastic institutions, the Brothers often practise such austerities as are included in solitude, fasting, and similar observances. The service of the church is in a high degree solemn and imposing, and the whole establishment is planned for the entire convenience of the community for which it was intended, the apartments of the Brothers pretty closely resembling in size and shape the rooms provided for students in colleges. The

library is, of course, one of the most important adjuncts of the building; and the refectory and other rooms provided for the common use are very much of the college pattern. We have published these details of the institution and of the original foundation of the order, as helping in some degree to explain what are the objects professed by the Oratorians themselves, and illustrating the principles of a fraternity which has for a considerable time challenged attention in the neighbourhood where their church is situated.

INCIDENT AT THE BURNING OF THE SURREY THEATRE.

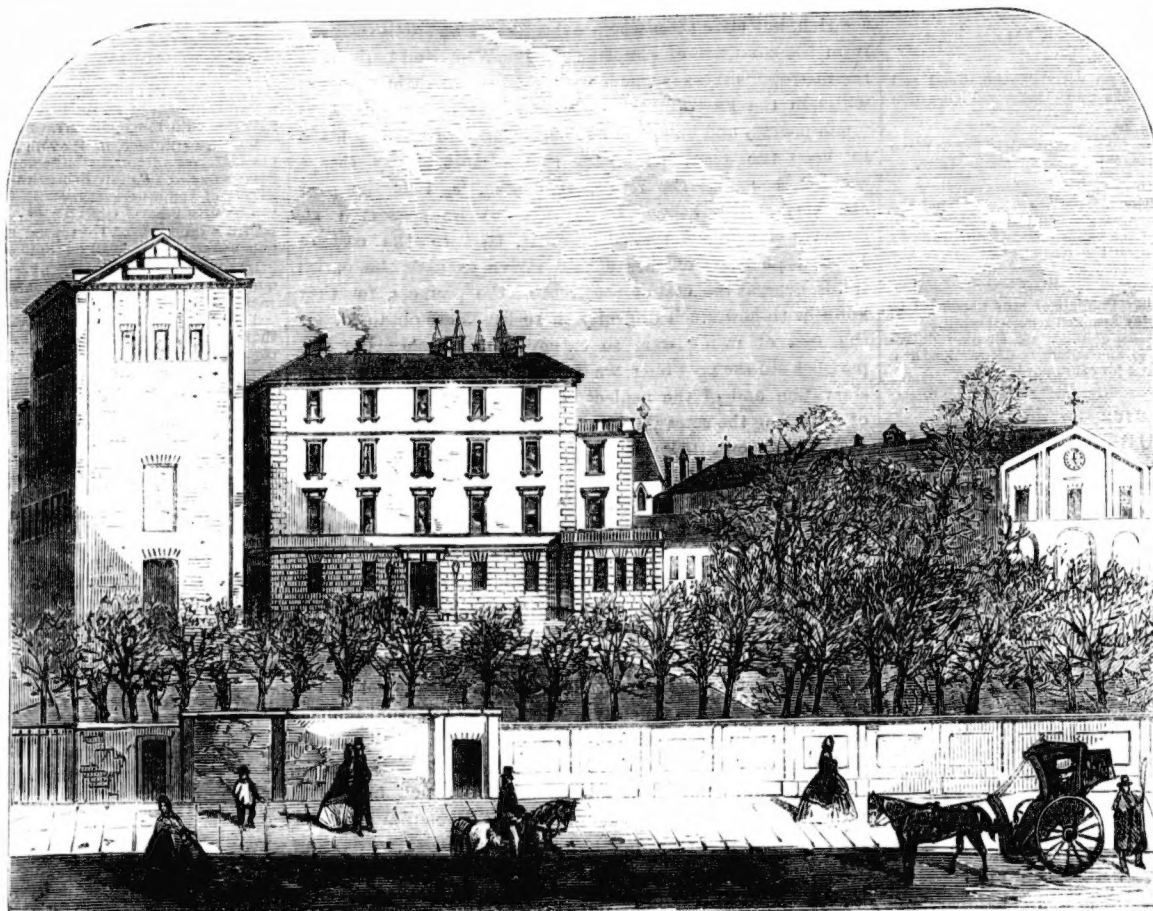
THE scene depicted in our Engraving, which occurred while the employés of the Surrey Theatre were being rescued from the dangers which surrounded them in such appalling forms, needs little description—it speaks for itself. When the flames burst forth, and while the audience were making their exit from the house, the scene on the stage and in the dressing-rooms was almost indescribable, the numerous actors and actresses who had been engaged in the pantomime running about in the wildest confusion, and the screams of the ballet-girls being most heartrending. To add to the horror of the scene, Mr. Hinkley, the gas superintendent of the theatre, to avoid explosions, had turned off the gas in the theatre, the back portions of which were for some time left in total darkness. Had it not been for the presence of mind displayed by Mr. Green, the acting manager; Mr. Rowella, the clown; Mr. Evans, the pantaloon; Mr. Vivian, the sprite; and some others of the pantomimists, the loss of life behind the scenes would have been dreadful. These gentlemen, at

the risk of their own lives, dragged the screaming and terrified females through the burning scenery to the stage door, whence they were conveyed to their homes, in a half-naked and fainting state, in cabs provided by the police. The last persons brought out of the

on Wednesday morning, and at Sadlers' Wells (when Mr. J. Anderson appeared as Macbeth) on Thursday evening. A collection amounting to £232 has been made on the Stock Exchange for the sufferers; and numerous other subscriptions have been received.

burning theatre were several young children who had been representing the characters of fairies in the transformation scene. Messrs. Rowella and Vivian, having reported to the stage manager that all persons had been safely got out of the theatre, then made their own escape, dressed as they had been while playing their respective parts, no persons engaged in the pantomime having had time to change their dress, so rapid was the progress of the fire; for in less than ten minutes from the first alarm the whole interior of the theatre was in a blaze.

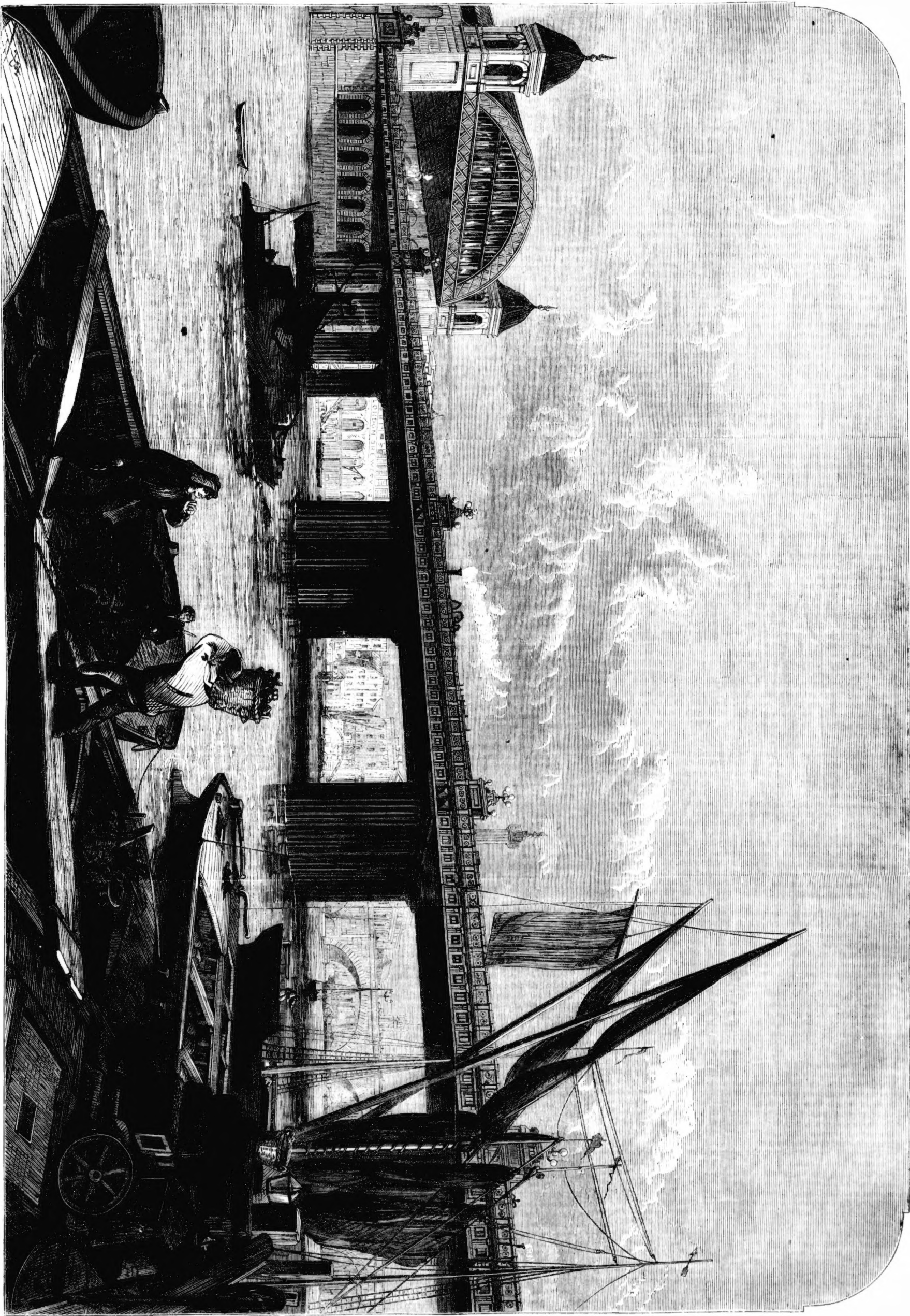
All the persons engaged in the theatre have been heavy losers by the calamity. None of them had time to re-dress themselves, but were compelled, as above stated, to make their escape in the clothes in which they had been performing. Their ordinary dresses were, of course, consumed by the flames; and, as few of them could afford to have extensive wardrobes, much suffering has been the result. The committee of the "Surrey Relief Fund" were able to announce on Monday that the subscriptions received had been sufficient to pay the salaries of every person employed in the late Surrey Theatre and to meet the most pressing cases of compensation for loss of clothes. At various theatres performances are about to take place for the benefit of the sufferers—viz., at Drury Lane, on the morning of Thursday, the 16th; and at Covent Garden, on the morning of Saturday, the 25th. There were also benefits at Astley's



THE BROMPTON ORATORY.



THE BURNING OF THE SURREY THEATRE: RESCUE OF THE EMPLOYÉS.



THE NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE ACROSS THE THAMES TO CANNON-STREET, CITY.

RAILWAY BRIDGE ACROSS THE THAMES TO CANNON-STREET.

This bridge, now in progress, will complete the Charing-cross Railway, by carrying it and the South-Eastern to the City terminus in Cannon-street.

We give a perspective View of the bridge as it will appear when finished, from Bank-side, Southwark. It consists of five spans—the two side ones of 124 ft. the three central, 135 ft. 8 in.—supported on four series of massive Doric columns, each 12 ft. in diameter, four columns to each pier. The headway at high water is 24 ft. for the side spans and 25 ft. for the central. The width of the roadway is 60 ft. for the four spans from the Surrey side, widening from the last pier to the Middlesex shore to 185 ft., exclusive of two footways, each 7 ft. wide. The roadway is borne on longitudinal girders 8 ft. in depth, and will give ample room for five lines of way.

The station at Cannon-street will consist of a vaulted roof 110 ft. high from the roadway, flanked by towers of very good design, which, breaking the line of the roof as seen from the river, remove the unsightly appearance so objectionable in the sister work at Charing-cross.

The engineer is John Hawkshaw, Esq.; the contractors for the ironwork are Messrs. Cochran and Grove; and for the other portions, Mr. Wythes.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Admiralty, thanks to Sir Richard Bromley, who inaugurated, and to Mr. Stansfield, who completed, a reform in the dockyard accounts, can now ascertain the exact cost of every ship which they build; and, as the first fruits of the new system, we have just learned the total cost of the ironclad named "Achilles." And what do our readers think it is? The old wooden line-of-battle ships cost, I think I have heard, at the rate of £1000 a gun. Thus, a seventy-four cost £74,000; a hundred-and-twenty, £120,000. But this ironclad monster has cost £486,000! or, say, in round numbers, half a million. What do you think of that, Messieurs the taxpayers of England? Is not this a pretty vista opened before us? We are reconstructing our Navy. In due time all our wooden ships will be discarded, and every ship afloat, big and little, will be iron-clad. According to a return which is before me, we have already thirty-four ironclads either built or in process of building; and, now that we have got the return, it would not be difficult to arrive at about the cost of the fleet. The total horse-power of this fleet is 23,230. Now, the cost of the Achilles is £400 per horse; the cost of the whole of these thirty-four ships, therefore, according to this mode of computation, which I believe is the correct mode, will amount to £9,292,000. But we have not finished the reconstruction of the Navy yet. We have not, I imagine, done more than one-tenth of the work. We have twenty-nine vessels on the North American and West Indian stations; the squadron in the Mediterranean numbers twenty-eight; the East India and China station requires sixty-one, including gunboats; the coast of Africa, twenty-two; the Pacific, thirteen; the southern coast of America, eleven; the Cape of Good Hope, eight; and the Australian station, seven. And then we have the Channel Fleet, which comprises five. In short, little and big, I am told, we must have 300 ships. We shall have, then, I suspect, to spend more than £150,000,000 before we shall see our Navy wholly reconstructed.

On Monday rumours of war startled the town; not foreign war, but political, internecine war between the old belligerents here at home. Liberals in office and Conservatives out. At first it was asserted that there would be an amendment moved to the Address, but who was to move it and what was to be its tenor nobody could learn. The rumour was confident in tone, but hazy and unpalpable in substance. At last it resolved itself into another rumour, more definite. There was to be no amendment to the Address, but the election of Mr. Dodson to the chairmanship of Ways and Means on Friday was to be stoutly opposed. And this rumour, on investigation, proved to be true. A resolution to set up a candidate against the Government man had been formally adopted at the Carlton, and an urgent whip had been dispatched both by Colonel Taylor and Mr. Brand for Friday night. "But who is the man to be?" was everywhere asked, and to this question no satisfactory answer could be got. Some said that Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald would be the candidate, but this was felt by all the knowing ones to be absurd. Mr. Fitzgerald flies at higher game than the chairmanship of Ways and Means. He intends next Parliament, if the Fates be propitious, to be Foreign Secretary—or, at all events, Under Secretary—and conduct the foreign business in the House of Commons. Then it was asserted that Mr. Hunt, the burly member for North Northamptonshire, had been selected; and this, it was understood, was the arrangement up to Tuesday morning. But on Tuesday morning it was announced by the Conservative whips that the fight was off. The fact is the Conservatives had neglected Mrs. Glass's advice, "First catch your hare." They had determined to fight before they had got a man, and, when they came to look round for their man, lo! there was no man to be found. Seymour Fitzgerald was out of the question; Mr. Howard Egerton was asked to stand, but promptly refused; and Mr. Hunt, after due consideration, also declined the honour. And so the projected assault upon the Government, for such it was to be, "went off at the touch-hole;" and, unless something unforeseen turns up, Dodson will be elected without opposition.

Mr. Charles Gilpin has resigned, or will resign, his office of Secretary to the Poor-Law Board, which he has held since July, 1859. The hon. gentleman resigns *ex mero motu*, as the lawyers say—of his own free will: simply because he has now so much business of his own to attend to that he cannot satisfactorily to himself perform the duties of this post. Here, then, is a nice office to be given away. Salary, £1000 a year; and work as you like, to make it either easy or hard, as your inclination may be. If you do your duty conscientiously, as Mr. Gilpin did his, the work will not be easy; but, if you do it as it often has been done, and as it still may be done without danger of censure, it is mere pleasant occupation. I will not venture to prophecy who will get this post. There are many mouths open for it, but into which the cherry will drop, I cannot tell.

Mr. Caird, it is said, will be Secretary to the Poor-Law Board; but the election is not made whilst I write. There are several applicants, and amongst them a certain gentleman who fiercely attacked the Government on Tuesday night. I have more than once told my readers that there were two recognised modes of getting offices—both of which have succeeded. The generally adopted plan is to vigorously support the Government; but some prefer to bully it. By the first method, you stand a chance of getting a reward; by the second, you may force the Government to give you a place that it may get rid of an annoyance.

Whoever is responsible for the composition of Royal Messages? Are they joint productions, each Minister supplying the portion relating to his own department, and then the whole stuck together with paste? I suppose this is the way the thing is got up; but why is not the Message revised and corrected? The bad grammar of Royal Messages has been the subject of comment from the days of Cobbett; but there seems no possibility of improvement, and the document read by Lord Westbury on Tuesday is as full of blunders as any that have preceded it, the *Times* to the contrary notwithstanding. Passing over tautologies, such as "recurring again," and other minor faults, which could easily have been avoided, let me draw attention to a few of the more gross faults which the composition exhibits. "Her Majesty remains steadily neutral between the contending parties, and would rejoice at a friendly reconciliation between them." Now what sort of reconciliation could that be which was not a friendly one? And between whom but the contending parties could a reconciliation take place? I suppose the mess made in the paragraphs relating to India is to be attributed to that "imperfect faculty of speech" about which Sir Charles Wood was rated by Mr. Grant-Duff last Session; but surely Lord Palmerston or Mr. Gladstone might have saved their colleague from the absurdity of saying that subscriptions collected in India had been

applied to relieve the sufferings caused by the prompt assistance rendered by the officers of Government on the occasion of the late hurricane on the coasts of Bengal and Madras. Besides, the destruction of life and property was the "calamity" that was to be regretted, and cannot be said to have occasioned itself. Had there been no "destruction of life and property," would the late cyclone have been a calamity? In the other paragraph about India certain outrages are complained of, but it is not stated by whom they were perpetrated, or against whom this measures for compelling redress were taken. Bhootan, it seems, is the delinquent, but that State is not even mentioned in the Message. I might cite other specimens of bad grammar in the Message, but these are enough to show that some one with a little skill in English composition is needed to edit Royal Messages in future; and I hope that Lord Palmerston will extend his programme for the Session so far as to include in his promised educational reforms the appointment of a censor of Cabinet English, so as to avoid in future such slipshod composition as that read before our assembled legislators, in her Majesty's name, on Tuesday. It is a pity the concoctors of the Message did not take more time and make it shorter, as Douglas Jerrold once advised a young aspirant after literary fame to do with his lucubrations; for, besides such palpable faults as those I have pointed out, the document contains a host of superfluous words, which might with great advantage have been dispensed with.

Beatus ille who has received a ticket of invitation to the matinees musicales of the Moray Minstrels, held at the residence of a gentleman well known to artists, and, indeed, no mean artist himself. The ticket is a work of art, drawn by Walker, who seldom touches the wood now, and engraved with great care. Walker's reason for abandoning the wood is, I understand, a belief that it destroys the appreciation of colour. If so, we must be content to lose him as an illustrator for the sake of what we shall gain from the colourist. On the other hand, Morten, who is illustrating Cassell's "Gulliver" with such spirit, has been so occupied as a draughtsman that he has not had time to assume the palette, and so will have no picture for the Academy this year. He must console himself with the thought that the fame acquired by the draughtsman is wider and more catholic as a rule than that of the painter.

What has befallen the art-critic of the leading journal? The other day in his notice of the British Institution he confused Orchardson with Pettie, a natural mistake, for they paint much alike, only a critic ought never to make even natural mistakes. And then next day, in repairing his omission to speak of Dawson's clever "London from Vauxhall," attributed Lucy's "Babes in the Wood" to Sant. Of a certainty, not only does Homer nod at times, but he even goes so far as to talk in his sleep!

Mr. Hain Friswell, a well-known and most industrious author, recently compiled and published a book under the title of "Familiar Words." The work consists of popular quotations, to which were added references to the respective authors. The *Athenæum* indulged in a long adverse criticism of the book, pointing out several verbal inaccuracies and one or two alleged omissions. Mr. Friswell replied by showing that the quotations said to have been omitted from his book were really included in it; and that as to the supposed errors, many of them were mere printer's mistakes, while others were not erroneous at all. Notably within the latter category was the attribution to Thomas Moore of a song entitled "My Heart and Lute." The *Athenæum* declared that the song was not by Moore, but part of an opera called "Lodoiska," by Kemble. Mr. Friswell referred to an edition of Moore's works in which the song was to be found. The critic contemptuously rejoined that this particular edition was spurious, and that the song was not in the authorised edition of Moore's poems revised by himself, and published by him in 1841. To crown the whole, Mr. Friswell refers to that edition, and there finds the song! For my part, I think the manner in which the *Athenæum* has dealt with Mr. Friswell downright dishonesty. There are corrections of a certain kind which a critic may make with an angry pen; but, with one or two exceptions, those pointed out by the *Athenæum* in Mr. Friswell's laborious book were not of that kind. I have no doubt "Familiar Words" contains errors—it would be wonderful if it did not—but, for all that, I think it is, most likely, the best book of the kind in existence. The public may, perhaps, feel some surprise that so much acrimony should have been shown by a critic upon a matter of such comparatively trivial moment. But it may be remembered that the great Shakespeare failure of 1864 brought Mr. Friswell into collision with the *Athenæum* set, who so materially aided in bringing that matter to its dismal termination. Critics who are the most reckless in wounding the self-esteem of others are usually the slowest to forgive any damage to their own.

A new publishing company, styled the Caxton, has been started, with the view, we are told, of carrying out the work which the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge left undone. Foremost among the works on the list which the new company puts forward is one which has met with the warmest encomiums in public from Lord Brougham, and the title of which is "The Laws We Live Under." Of the utility of a work of this character there can be no question; and, if the Caxton Company only manages to produce it in a satisfactory manner, it will achieve a reputation which will conduce materially to the success of the company in a commercial point of view.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In *Temple Bar*, the author of "Lady Audley's Secret" begins, this month, a new story, called "Sir Jasper's Tenant." I am bound, in justice, to say it is not carefully written. "Sir Jasper's Tenant" does no credit to the vigorous pen from which it proceeds, though there are a few bits of keen observation of life in it, and some pretty tints of natural beauty in the scenery. The little paper, "Through Wilts," is very pleasant reading. "David Chantry" is, this time, rather juvenile.

Miss Braddon says a horribly true thing in her "Only a Clod," in the *St. James's*—a story which I have already said is very good:—"Take life as other people take it, and you'll find it go smoothly enough with you. Try to live on a plan of your own, and the rest is chaos." The articles which make up the rest of this magazine are not remarkable, and most of them are poor.

The *Victoria* is very bad. The author of the paper on Walter Savage Landor finds fault with a recent article in the *Saturday Review*, for saying Landor was a Pagan. But, in spite of the extracts from his writings, given by the writer in the *Victoria*, the *Saturday Review* was quite correct. The man was a Pagan, who now and then patronised Christianity in a very lugubrious manner. I remember, in one of his "Conversations," a dull piece of compliment to the Founder of Christianity and His precepts. It was, pretty exactly, this:—"Among precepts which are all excellent (how kind of Landor to say so!) there is one which is of distinguished merit, 'Commune with your own heart in your chamber, and be still.'" This is, however, not a "precept" of the Founder of Christianity, but a quotation from the Psalms of David.

Macmillan is again very good. Mr. Masson contributes an exceedingly interesting paper about Agostino Ruffini. For the benefit of those who thought the Poles ought to have given in when they found their chances of success dwindling down, I quote a short passage which expressed Ruffini's formula of Italian effort to be free:—

We must fight, fight, fight. If one whole generation of us should have to be swept away in the process, and Italy can then be free, it will be a good bargain; but take even that hope away, and it is still only by our deaths for what is hopeless, by the deaths of a great many of us, that we Italians can do the best that it is left for us to do.

The next three papers are to be about Dr. Samuel Brown, Hugh Miller, and De Quincey. The short article on "State Medicine" is very intelligent and comprehensive. The name of Dr. Anstie, who writes it, is not new to readers of the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES*. He is an exceedingly able man; and so, it need not be said, is Mr. Goldwin Smith. I must give a passage or two from his sketch of President Lincoln:—

You pass into the President's room of business through an ante-room, which has, no doubt, been paced by many an applicant for office and many

an intriguer. There is no formality—nothing in the shape of a guard; and, if this man is really "a tyrant worse than Robespierre," he must have great confidence in the long-sufferance of his kind. The room is a common office-room, the only ornament that struck the writer's eye being a large photograph of John Bright. The President's face and figure are well known by likenesses and caricatures. The large-boned and sinewy frame, 6 ft. 4 in. in height, is probably that of the yeoman of the north of England—the district from which Lincoln's name suggests that his forefathers came—made spare and gaunt by the climate of America. The face, in like manner, denotes an English yeoman's solidity of character and good sense, with something superadded from the enterprising life and hard habits of the Western Yankee. The brutal fidelity of the photograph as usual, has given the features of the original, but left out the expression. It is one of kindness, and, except when specially moved to mirth, of seriousness and care. The manner and address are perfectly simple, modest, and unaffected, and therefore free from vulgarity in the eyes of all who are not vulgar themselves.

Mr. Lincoln is not a highly cultivated politician; and it is much to be lamented that he is not; for he will have to deal, in the course of reconstruction, with political problems requiring for their solution all the light that political science and history can afford. Like American statesmen in general, he is no doubt entirely unversed in the principles of economy and finance; and it is quite credible that he may be, as is reported, the author of the strange scheme for raising money by issuing a kind of stock which shall not be liable to seizure for debt. But within the range of his knowledge and vision, which does not extend beyond the Constitution, laws, and political circumstances of his own country, he is a statesman.

Few, even of those who call him a tyrant and a neurper, have ventured to charge him with personal cruelty. It is scarcely possible to obtain his consent to the execution of a deserter, or a spy. He has set his heart on carrying through the revolution, if possible, without shedding any blood except on the field of battle. This is the more creditable to his humanity, since it is believed, and he shares that belief, that an attempt was made to assassinate him at Baltimore immediately after his first election. There is another great meed of praise to which Mr. Lincoln is entitled. Chief of a party in one of the most desperate struggles of history, he has never, by anything that has fallen from his lips, gratuitously increased the bitterness of civil war. His answer to those who came to congratulate him on his re-election was thoroughly generous, chivalrous, and patriotic. He "did not wish to triumph over any man." He "had never wilfully planted a thorn in any man's bosom." It is true that he has not.

This, is no doubt, a kind and partial account of the man; but Mr. Goldwin Smith deserves to be listened to, and is always honest.

A new-comer, the *Household Monthly Magazine*, is before me. It contains a poem by the late David Gray, tales, sketches, music, mathematics, and miscellanies; and is a very pleasant and plentiful sixpennyworth.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

As many people have an intense curiosity to know all about actors and actresses, their manners and customs off the stage, I send an account of the complimentary benefit given to Mr. Paul Bedford at DRURY LANE on the Thursday before last. Let me first say the affair was a great success; the house was crowded in every part; even the orchestra was converted into stalls, and the band scraped and blew behind the scenes. The performances consisted of the Adelphi farce of the "Area Belle;" the Haymarket piece of "My Aunt's Advice," in which Mr. Sothorn appeared; and "Box and Cox." Permit me now to quote from the programme:—"To conclude with 'Paul Bedford at Home,' a morning call will be made by the following eminent artistes," and then follows a list of sixty-one ladies and ninety-six gentlemen, all of the dramatic profession. I hope that those grumblers who say that there is no theatrical talent nowadays will be silenced for ever by this fact. If there are one hundred and fifty-seven eminent artistes to be found in London, and, I suppose, no sceptic is to be found disagreeable enough to question the truth of a playbill, it is clear that the dramatic art, as an art, has risen rapidly these last few years. However, after the farces, the curtain rose upon a perfect crowd, and, amid the dark dresses of the ladies and the still darker great coats of the other sex, it was difficult to distinguish who was who. Mr. Buckstone then addressed a few words to the audience, and then Mr. Paul Bedford advanced and a storm of plaudits shook the house. Mr. Bedford, who, in the course of his address, was considerably affected, called his hearers "his honoured patrons," and told them that it was forty years since he had first trod the "classic boards" of Drury. He mentioned that his professional career had begun in the city of Bath; that he had travelled to Edinburgh, and caused considerable diversion by stopping short to inquire if "his dear children in the gallery could hear him." He need not have feared. Every syllable of that big, round-toned, manly voice was distinctly audible in the remotest corners of the theatre; and when he recounted his past services and expressed his gratitude for the brilliant compliment he had that day received in return, he touched not only the ears of his auditors, but their hearts also. Indeed, Mr. Paul Bedford's own personal pocket-handkerchief was not the only one in constant requisition. He then led to the front a few of the celebrities, whom the audience recognised in the usual manner: among them were Miss Amy Sedgwick, Mrs. Howard Paul, Mr. Compton, Mr. Toole, Mrs. Hermann Vezin, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews, Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. Alfred Mellon, and Mr. Sothorn. There were loud calls for Mr. Phelps, to which Mr. Bedford explained that that gentleman had been on the stage, but had "evaporated;" in lieu of Mr. Phelps, he led forward Mr. Phelps's son, with whom the audience seemed equally satisfied. There was also a call for Messrs. Anderson and Sheppard, the lessees of that Surrey Theatre in which we shall never again see a performance, and who were very cordially received. Every clap of the hand assured them that the audience were individually sorry that they had been "burnt out," but that they looked very well under the circumstances. To my mind, the hundreds of people in the house were most touched when the tall and portly Paul stood hand in hand with his old comrades, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, and alluded to the lady as "the dear girl" who had played Jack Sheppard with him so many nights. Jack Sheppard! that comely matron, with the bright, black eyes—the wife of that white-haired little gentleman, with the grave, reverend face! Even so, thought the startled spectators, though he looked as incapable of felony as of jack-boots. At last, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by Messrs. Haigh, Perren, and H. Corrie; and the curtain fell.

At the ADELPHI, "Stephen Digges" and the "Flowers of the Forest" have been performed during the week. Miss Bateman still continues indisposed, and due notice is to be given of her resumption of the part of Julia.

I hear that subscriptions flow in rapidly for the sufferers from the destruction of the SURREY. I walked over the ruins on Monday last. Among the stacks of charred wood and burnt bricks I saw several theatrical properties, trampled, blackened, but whole; and in one desolate corner a pantomime-mask, with an expression of high Christmas geniality and jollity, laughed, wide-mouthed, at the wreck around it. The mask was crowned with a sort of Saracenic turban, and had so odd a look of life that a sentimentalist would have exclaimed, "Alas! poor Yorick!" at the sight of it.

I mentioned last week that Miss Marie Wilton had become the lessee of the QUEEN'S THEATRE, in Tottenham Court-road, and that it was to be rebuilt, redecorated, &c. It is to be opened under the new management on Easter Monday. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has graciously given permission to the new directress to christen the theatre after him. *Le Roi est mort! Vive la Roi!* So the old Queen's Theatre is to be the new Prince of Wales Theatre.

FEARFUL TRAGEDY IN BELGIUM.—A marble-mason and his family lived near one of the police stations in Brussels. An old soldier visited the family. From time to time small sums of money were missed from a drawer. The wife suspected the soldier and watched him. One morning, when he supposed her out, he went into the room where the money was kept and proceeded to take some of the money. The wife, who was on the watch, rushed out upon him and tried to take him to the police station; but he threw her down and strangled her, leaving her for dead. She was afterwards restored to consciousness, but was still in danger. Meanwhile the soldier went to a neighbouring village, where dwelt his wife and infant child, and then proceeded to pistol at his wife, wounding her frightfully, and then blew out his own brains with the other. The mother's jaw was shattered, but it is hoped that she will recover. The babe escaped.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THE CHARMED BULLET.

I.

THE Keeper Haller, whose little lodge stood high up in the forest, close to a tall thicket of beech-trees, was one of those whom the first sunny days of spring would not allow to remain in doors. Even throughout the winter he had trudged about his district after foxes and other vermin, and he now returned home only when evening had completely set in, while before daybreak he was off again into the forest.

It was, however, not alone the spring weather and the love of sport which caused Haller to be so active in his district. For some time past, especially during the morning and evening twilight suspicious reports of firearms had been heard at different points of the forest; the beater had even found the old, decaying body of a deer, whose hide showed clearly enough the charge of small shot it had received, and there could no longer be any doubt that one or more worthless persons were carrying on their lawless depredations in the forest intrusted to Haller's care.

During this state of things the forester was constantly on the watch, and early one morning in April he set out from the lodge for a well-known pairing-ground. There was not a breath of air stirring, and the bright, twinkling stars were still glistening in the sky. A screech-owl only announced with its plaintive cry the approach of day; but for this, the forest was as still as death; the separate dewdrops could be heard as they pattered to the ground at short intervals from the branches.

Haller walked stoutly on, along a glade, separated by a plantation of young pines from the lower part of the adjacent slope. The path was thickly covered with moss and the leaves which had fallen from the beech-trees on his right, too wet to rustle under his feet. With his morning's pipe in full glow, and in the double enjoyment of the fresh air and the old c-naster, he strode forward quickly, and yet without the least noise, along the broad glade, till he arrived at a spot called Beech-hill, not far from the frontier, and which, although it lay at a somewhat inconvenient distance from the lodge, was where the greatest vigilance was necessary, to show any poachers who might cross from the opposite side of the frontier that in all parts of the district they ran the risk of being discovered.

A road ran at this point right across the wood, and an old invalid of a signpost, which seemed to be wearing in a sling one of its arms that was half hanging down, stood at the spot where Haller had to leave the glade and ascend the beech-clad eminence.

Haller knocked out the ashes from his pipe, coughed once or twice to clear his throat, so that he might not afterwards make any noise at the wrong moment, thrust his pipe in his pocket, and slowly ascended the somewhat steep acclivity.

He had proceeded some 400 or 500 paces, without paying particular attention to anything, except that he took care not to tread upon any fallen wood, and endeavoured to make as little noise as possible, when he stood still, for the first time, and listened. The silence of the glade still reigned throughout the forest, only Haller often quickly turned his head to the right or left as the fall of a somewhat heavy dewdrop made him fancy he heard the "Pell-peller!" of the woodgrouse, which is somewhat similar in sound.

The forester remained standing thus for the space of half an hour. In the east he could just perceive the first grey twilight of the approaching day, but as yet it did little more than cause the lower stars to look pale. "Pell-pell-pell-peller!"—the peculiar, strange call of the woodgrouse during pairing time—suddenly resounded through the dark, silent forest. Haller had no sooner turned his ear in the direction whence the sound seemed to proceed in order that he might ascertain more precisely the bird's exact position, than he caught the sound of a similar note in quite another direction, somewhat nearer the slope. These were evidently a couple of young cocks, who after a brief pause burst forth with their strange love-song with redoubled vigour. The forester, taking his gun from his shoulder, advanced a few steps forward. Towards the top of the slope there was still some snow remaining, which the winter had left behind in cliffs and cavities. There were, it is true, clear plots of ground between these places; but Haller, if he proceeded in a straight line, could not avoid some of them, and then the snow cracked under his feet. But this did not matter. So long as he timed his movements by the short period of the bird's call, he might make as much noise as he liked. Just, however, as he had sprung over a tract somewhat clearer than the rest, it struck him that he heard the noise of the snow cracking higher up. His ear, sensitively alive to every unlawful sound, listened anxiously in the direction of the noise. But everything was as still as death. The very woodgrouse had ceased calling, as if even they had been rendered suspicious by some unusual sound.

The forester had continued to advance, still hearing the cracking noise above him, when a cock came flying by, and, passing over one perched on an adjacent tree, alighted on the ground. He instantly began "clurking" to challenge his rival to combat, while the latter, indignant at such impertinence, did not keep him long waiting, but winged his flight heavily to the ground, and Haller could distinctly hear the two adversaries engaged in a severe conflict with each other.

In savage silence the foes struck one another with their heavy beaks, wings, and spurs; then, seizing hold of each other, rolled over and over. This was the favourable moment for creeping up, although, even then, the forester must exercise the greatest caution if he would not have one or other of the birds perceive his advance.

Profiting by the tall, moss covered stump of an old tree that had been thrown down at some time or other by the wind, Haller glided softly forward, and was slowly raising himself so as to look over the stump and seek out his next hiding-place, when suddenly the report of a gun not far from him thundered through the forest.

Haller started as though he had been himself hit, so surprised was he; but the winged bird soon brought him to himself. One of the cocks flew off, far away through the trees, and then over the valley, in order to leave the place of danger as far behind as possible. The other, however, although it tried to use its wings, fell back, rose again, fluttered a short distance down the slope, and then rolled straight to the stump, behind which the forester lay.

Quick springing footsteps were now audible. The poacher wished to secure his booty as soon as possible, and, holding in his hand the one-barrelled gun he had just discharged, descended the steep beech slope. There lay the bird, still flapping its heavy wings. Haller had caught hold of it by one of them, and had half drawn it behind the stump by which he was screened. The poacher stretched out his arm, and the next moment the forester's hand grasped his throat.

"I've got you, have I, you infernal villain?" exclaimed Haller, thrusting back his prisoner, who was frightened to death, and thus throwing him down. "Wait a little, you scoundrel, I'll put a stop to your poaching; for some time at least!"

"Oh! my good gentleman, let me beg of you a thousand and a thousand times, for Heaven's sake, not to ruin me," exclaimed the captured individual; "as long as ever I live, I will not!"

"Budge a foot, you brute, and I'll shoot you!"

"Merciful Heavens!" shouted the man, as Haller raised his gun, not for the purpose of firing, but only in order to ensure obedience, so that he might take the man off and deliver him up to the authorities. "Gracious Heavens!" With these words the poacher caught hold of the barrel of the gun, and, gliding his hand down it, pressed against the trigger, when both barrels were simultaneously discharged in the air.

This gave him fresh courage. He could not be shot at any rate; and, if he could now only succeed in freeing himself from the forester's grasp, he was saved. But Haller, too, was quite as well aware that all he had to rely on at present was his bodily strength. Without a moment's reflection, immediately the two barrels went off he let go the poacher's coat, and threw both arms round his body.

But the poacher was a young and sturdy fellow, and, raising him-

self with a violent effort, succeeded in getting from behind the stump where he had fallen. The struggling foes could now no longer obtain a firm footing on the steep declivity, and rolled down over one another, Haller sometimes being uppermost and sometimes undermost, but never once letting go his hold. With the greatest coolness he avoided every kind of danger in their way, and when, after sliding down the smooth declivity, they were hurled against a tree, he threw himself rapidly back and thrust the poacher forward, so that, an instant afterwards, the head of the latter was dashed violently against the hard wood, and he lay, half stunned, in the forester's grasp.

In spite of this momentary victory, however, Haller saw that he never should be able to secure the young and sturdy fellow, who was now rendered reckless by despair. Besides this, Haller could not see his prisoner's face, for the morning had scarcely broke, so, without more ado, he availed himself of the opportunity which might, perhaps, never return, to mark him. In a twinkling he drew his hanger, and, before his half-stunned prisoner could fully recover his consciousness, cut off the flap of his right ear. Hardly was this done before the poacher sprang up, and, thrusting the forester from him, ran, as fast as his legs could carry him, into the nearest clump of firs.

"Ay, cut away!" muttered the forester, with a grim laugh. "I have kept your card, however, and we shall see each other, I'll lay a wager, before your ear has grown again. Dence take him, how he sweats at it; if I only had my dog here we might have some splendid sport looking after the vagabond. I will go and fetch it, and then we will see where my young friend lies."

With these words he sheathed his hanger, and, wrapping the flap of the man's ear in a piece of paper, once more descended the slope, for the purpose of fetching the two guns and the woodgrouse which had been shot.

After taking the gun, which had thus become his spoil, and the bird to a place of safety, he returned with his dog to the spot. The dog immediately caught the scent, and followed it a considerable distance into the clump of firs. There, however, the wounded man must have bound up his wound, or the wound must have left off bleeding. A brace or two of birds, too, which had roosted there, led the dog astray, and he followed their track instead of keeping to that of the man. About twelve o'clock in the day Haller was obliged to return home, without having effected his object.

II.

At some four miles' distance from the keeper's lodge, and not far from the frontier, stood the small town of Hülse, a wretched place, the inhabitants of which supported themselves chiefly by stealing wood and begging; a lucifer-match manufactory furnishing the young and growing population with a miserable trade; while others of the inhabitants employed themselves partly in carving wood, for which they were paid badly enough, and partly with weaving, and thus dragged on a miserable existence.

The only well-fed, well-to-do person in the whole place was the sexton of the little church, which stood upon a slight elevation in the middle of the village. Slow and precise as the worthy man generally was in his movements, he seemed to be very bustling and active this particular morning—namely, Easter Sunday, when, in conformity with an old custom, it was his duty to decorate the little temple with branches of budding birch, or, if they were not to be had, with boughs of green fir.

The person who generally procured these for him had kept him waiting this particular morning a fearfully long time. The sun was actually rising when the individual in question stopped, with a truck piled up with green boughs, before the church door, where he was received by the impatient sexton.

"Why, Helzig, what has kept you so late to-day? You were not even once seen all yesterday, and to-day I have been running about here, up and down, an hour by the clock, in utter despair. But come, unload the green stuff, that we may get the church in order, before the bell rings for the third time. But what is the matter? Have you got the toothache?"

"Fearfully," replied the man, putting one hand to his chin, which was wrapped up, and with the other undoing the cord that held together his load of branches. "I have been suffering from it all yesterday and all last night."

"Have the tooth taken out," said the sexton, without bestowing any very great attention on the sufferer. "Why do you allow a decayed bone to annoy you so long? 'If thine eye offend thee'—but we shall hardly find that truckful enough."

"I could not cut any more," muttered the man. "The birch-trees have not yet properly sprouted; besides, the pain was so bad that I was not able to go far for them. But I dare say we shall have sufficient."

"Then help me, so that we may be ready as soon as possible. There—they are ringing the first bell; that idiot of a schoolmaster's watch is always half an hour too fast, in order that he may get home again in time for dinner."

The two men now earnestly set about decorating the little church with the boughs, an operation which they performed with tolerable rapidity. The hooks and nails had been firmly driven into the walls in years gone by, and the men had not much more to do than to place the boughs in the proper places and then fix them there. When the second bell rang they were all ready; and the sexton put on the official coat, that was lying ready for him, in order to witness calmly the commencement of the sacred ceremony.

Helzig was near the altar, engaged in fixing the last clump of boughs. When he had finished he continued standing there, with his hands in his pockets, in expectation of his customary fee.

While standing thus, his eye fell accidentally on the altar, where, under a low glass case, there were a number of articles of the most varied description, such as little silver feet and hands, as well as eyes, which pious individuals, after an illness affecting one or other of these members, had dedicated to the patron saint of the church. Among them, however, lay an ordinary leaden bullet.

"Here, my friend, is your money," said the sexton, returning in his official garments; "and, if you will allow me to give you a piece of advice, get home as soon as you can and change your clothes, so as not to miss Divine service, or, afterwards, to interrupt the sermon."

"Thank you," said Helzig, casting a hasty glance at the money, and then putting it in his pocket. "But, could you tell me anything about that bullet which is yonder on the altar, under the glass case?"

"The bullet?" said his companion, casting a hasty glance in the direction indicated. "Oh, that one there! That is a charmed bullet."

"A charmed bullet!" exclaimed Helzig quickly, and in surprise. "How does it come here? and what is a charmed bullet?"

"I've got time now, haven't I, to tell you a long story?" said the sexton. "Upon my honour, the people are already coming to church. Make haste and be off with you, for you haven't got your Sunday coat on. Stop; you can go out at once by the vestry-door yonder, so as not to meet those who are coming in."

Helzig followed this advice, for he himself wished to meet as few persons as possible. Quickly, therefore, did he leave the church and turn his steps homewards. He was, however, in a desperate frame of mind in no way, by-the-by, the result of toothache. It was not for his tooth that he had bound up his face but for his ear, of which, strange to say, a piece had been wanting since the previous morning, without even he himself being able clearly to account for the fact.

For many years he had secretly carried on the business of a poacher with great success. When we say with great success, we mean without being caught, for he was far too bad a shot to be successful in any other respect. At present, however, he felt—so to speak, the knife at his throat. That the gamekeeper he had come across did not know him he was sure. At any rate, the faint light of the day, which had only just dawned, had not enabled the official to see his face plainly enough to swear to it in court, and for a moment or two Helzig thought himself safe. But the flap of his ear! How could he have lost that?

If he had lost it in the struggle, or if it had been torn off by a sharp stump or a thorn, without the gamekeeper knowing anything about it, then it did not matter. The place would be healed in a day or two, and no one need have the slightest suspicion how and when he had suffered the injury. Moreover, no one knew his gun; in fact, people were not even aware he ever had a gun in his cottage, so secret had he kept his somewhat dangerous trade. But, as far as he could see in his little bit of a looking-glass at home, the wound resembled a cut more than a tear—as if the confounded keeper had taken this means of marking him. Helzig ground his teeth with anger and vexation, and his heart beat almost audibly when he thought of the possibility of his being summoned to appear before the magistrate, of his being examined, and being sent to the house of correction.

Easter Sunday—that festival of peace for all Christians—was spent by Helzig in a state of painful anxiety. His small cottage was inhabited only by himself and his old mother, who, by-the-way, had no suspicion of the lawless pursuit in which her son, by trade a blacksmith, at times indulged.

The excuse of toothache, which he had adopted out of doors, protected him even now from troublesome questions. Plunged in moody silence, he sat behind the stove in the little room, until evening at last came, and he would stop in doors no longer. He felt anxious to hear whether anything was known in the village about his accident. He resolved, therefore, to visit the wineshop, where a number of people assembled on that particular evening. He removed the handkerchief from his wound; the blood had long coagulated round it; and he arranged his hair, which was rather long, so as to conceal his ear.

Not far from his cottage he met the sexton, who "after the burden and heat of the day," as he expressed it, had taken a little walk, and was just returning home.

"Well, Helzig, how is the toothache?" he asked. "Is it better? I did not see you at church to-day?"

"No, I was not there," answered Helzig. "When a fellow has got such a pain in his jaws, he does not feel devout enough to sing."

"You are going to make up in the wineshop for what you missed to-day at church, eh?"

"You might guess as much," muttered Helzig, discontentedly. "A man must have some pleasure."

"Helzig, Helzig!" said the pious old man, warningly, with raised brows and uplifted finger; "I fear—I almost fear you think more of your present pleasure than of your future salvation. I only hope that contrition and repentance may not come too late, and that you, at last, may not be so situated as the poor wretch from whom we got the bullet you saw to-day!"

"The bullet—true!" said Helzig quickly, stopping and looking at his interlocutor. "From whom did you get it, and what are the circumstances connected with it? You promised that you would tell me."

"Then let me sit down a minute," said the little man, "for walking and talking at the same time is rather hard work, and, by telling you this short story as a warning, I may perhaps yet conclude this blessed day with a holy work."

Near the road, and near a tall milestone, was a small wooden bench. The old man seated himself upon this, and, while Helzig stood expectantly before him, wiped the perspiration from his forehead and then proceeded with his promised narrative.

(To be continued.)

LIEBIG ON A NEW EXTRACT OF BEEF.

IN an article in the *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie* for January, 1865, Baron Liebig describes a new extract of beef which is being prepared in large quantities in Uruguay for consumption in Europe. (The process for its preparation is given in vol. lxi. of the *Annalen*.) Since the introduction of this extract of fish into the pharmacopoeia, its great efficacy in cases of debility, indigestion, &c., has been repeatedly proved; and, in order to give an idea of the extent to which it is used, it will be sufficient to state that nearly 5000 pounds of beef are yearly employed in the Court Dispensary for its preparation. A great part of this is sold retail (i.e., without a doctor's prescription) in the apothecaries' shops—an undoubted sign that it is employed for household purposes. Even very poor persons who have once experienced its beneficial effects, and who are very much disinclined to spend money on medicine, return to its use of their own accord in the event of illness, notwithstanding its present high price (2s. per ounce). It is particularly valuable in hospitals, as by its means physicians can prescribe a soup of any required strength, perfectly free from fat. For several years its use has been strongly recommended in the French army by Proust and Parmentier, the latter of whom says:—"Dissolved in a glass of wine, it is a powerful restorative, rendering severely wounded soldiers, however weakened by loss of blood, capable of bearing removal to the nearest field-hospital." One pound of the extract, boiled with some bread, potatoes, and salt, will make sufficient soup for 125 soldiers, and not inferior in strength to that obtained from the best hotels. In fortresses and at sea, where the men are confined to salted and smoked meat, it is the only means of supplying the important ingredients which meat is deprived of in the process of salting. "For the last fifteen years," says Baron Liebig, "I have continually directed the attention of residents in Buenos Ayres and Australia to its preparation, but it is only recently that my efforts have had any sure prospect of realisation. In 1862 I received a visit from Herr Giebert, an engineer of Hamburg, who had spent many years in South America and Uruguay, where hundreds of thousands of sheep and oxen are killed solely for the hides and fat. He told me that directly he saw my account of the preparation of this extract he came to Munich with the intention of learning the process, and then returning to South America in order to undertake its manufacture on a large scale. I therefore recommended Herr Giebert to Professor Pettenkofer, who willingly made him familiar with every detail of the process. He then returned to Uruguay in the summer of 1863; but owing to the many difficulties which generally hinder the introduction and management of a new business, it was a most year before he could actually commence the manufacture. Herr Giebert requested permission to call his extract by my name, which I granted; telling him, however, beforehand that, if it contained the least trace of fat, which causes it to become rancid, or the gummy substance which the ordinary solid broth or consommé contains, which prevents it to become mouldy, and entirely deprives the product of its unalterability of the pure extract, I should be the first to publicly assert its inferiority. In return, Dr. Pettenkofer and myself promised to submit each sample to analysis, free of cost, and if found genuine to testify to the fact, on condition that he would bring it into commerce at not more than a third of its present price. This arrangement, of course, relates only to the commencement of the importation, as the testimony of chemists will be no longer necessary when the public are once acquainted with the characteristics of the pure extract. Herr Giebert proposes to produce from five to six thousand pounds per month. The first sample, of about eighty pounds' extract from beef and thirty pounds from mutton, arrived a few days ago, in Munich; and we have the satisfaction of being able to say that, for a product from the flesh of half-wild animals, its quality is excellent; and we believe that the other condition—i.e., the price—will also meet our expectations."—*Lancet*.

A RAILWAY JOKE.—The *Italie* of Turin says the following scene occurred a few days ago at a railway station:—"On a bitter cold day a millionaire applied at the ticket-office for a third class ticket. 'What!' exclaimed the official, who knew him, 'you, Sir, take a third class on such a day as this?' 'Why, I must,' was the cool reply, 'since there is no fourth class.' 'I beg your pardon,' answered the official, handing him a ticket; 'but there is; here is one.' The man of wealth hastily paid for it and rushed forward to take his place. On the doorstep asking to see his ticket the traveller produced it; but was rather taken aback on being told that the ticket would not do for him. 'And why not?' he exclaimed. 'Why, Sir, because it is a dog-ticket!'

"WOMAN'S RIGHTS."—A novel question has arisen at Oxford respecting the rights of lady governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary. At the October quarterly court two ladies entered the room and tendered their votes on the election of a committee. This was an unprecedented circumstance, and the Master of University College, who presided on that occasion, would only receive the votes under protest. At the quarterly court last week five ladies attended, and a long discussion took place, two propositions being submitted, one denying their right of attending, and the other proposing that counsel's opinion be taken on the question. The advocates of the former urged the usage of eighty years, and relied on a phrase in the rules—"ladies subscribing as governors"—as implying a distinction between them and the other sex. On the other side, it was shown that ladies had the privilege of voting by proxy on certain occasions, and that proxies invariably conferred an additional and not a limited right. This view eventually prevailed, and it was consequently considered unnecessary to obtain a legal opinion. Professor Westwood has, however, since published a letter, which, while admitting the right to vote of unmarried ladies, contends that this is a casual interest, which in the case of married women is vested in their husbands. The dispute will, therefore, probably be revived.

ADMIRAL PORTER.

REAR-ADMIRAL David D. Porter, the Commander of the naval division of the expedition against Wilmington, which has resulted in the capture of Fort Fisher, at the mouth of one of the entrances to the Cape Fear River, is a son of the famous Commodore Porter, of the Essex, who cut a prominent figure in the war between Great Britain and America in 1812-13, in the course of which he was made prisoner by the British while on board of a neutral ship—a circumstance which, although he was speedily released, it is said that neither he nor his son ever forgot or forgave. Admiral Porter is now about fifty years of age, and has belonged to the navy over thirty years. Until the breaking out of the present war, he had scanty opportunities of distinguishing himself; but a few years ago, while in command of the Crescent City, he attracted considerable attention by persisting in an effort to enter the port of Savannah under the shotted guns of the Moro Castle, and in opposition to the orders of the Spanish authorities. Shortly after the commencement of the war Admiral Porter was intrusted with the command of a flotilla of gun-boats on the Mississippi; and while General Grant was engaged in the operations which resulted in the surrender of Vicksburg, Porter gave efficient aid with his squadron, and contributed largely to the capture of Port Hudson, on the same river, which followed immediately after the fall of Vicksburg; and these two events, together with the repulse of Lee at Gettysburg, furnished the North with food for rejoicing on the occasion of the 4th of July celebrations of 1863. He was, some time since, transferred to the command of the North Atlantic squadron, in which capacity the conduct of the blockade of a large portion of the seaboard of the Confederate States came under his control. In the discharge of his duties in this wide sphere of operations, Admiral Porter has shown an amount of vigour, intelligence, and determination which might well entitle him to the gratitude and admiration of his countrymen; but his crowning exploit has been the capture of Fort Fisher and the closing of the entrances to the port of Wilmington, the last place of note in the seaboard at which supplies for the South could be entered, and which has consequently sprung into an importance which, perhaps, it would not otherwise have acquired.

The first attempt upon the defences at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, when the land forces were led by Generals Butler and Weitzel, failed—partly in consequence of a severe storm, and partly, as is alleged, from the want of nerve shown by the military commanders. Porter, however, did his part, and expressed a decided opinion at the time that a more determined attack on Fort Fisher would have resulted in its capture—an opinion amply justified by the result of the second attack, which, as our readers are aware, was successful on the 15th of January, after three days' fighting. This event has naturally made Admiral Porter very popular in the Northern States; and, for the time at least, he quite outshines all the other naval commanders of the Federals, not excepting the dashing Farragut, who, we suppose, will now be stimulated to the performance of some other feat of naval warfare in order to regild the laurels which he won at New Orleans, but which were somewhat dimmed by the failure of his attempt to capture Mobile, and

have now been eclipsed by the blaze of those gained by Porter at Fort Fisher. The gallant Admiral, however, is not free from that tendency to exaggeration which distinguishes so many of his countrymen, for in his report of the capture of Fort Fisher he indulges in the following bit of bun-kum:—"These works are tremendous. I was in Fort Malakoff a few days after its surrender to the French and English. The combined armies of these two

nations were many months capturing that stronghold, and it won't compare, either in size or strength, with Fort Fisher."

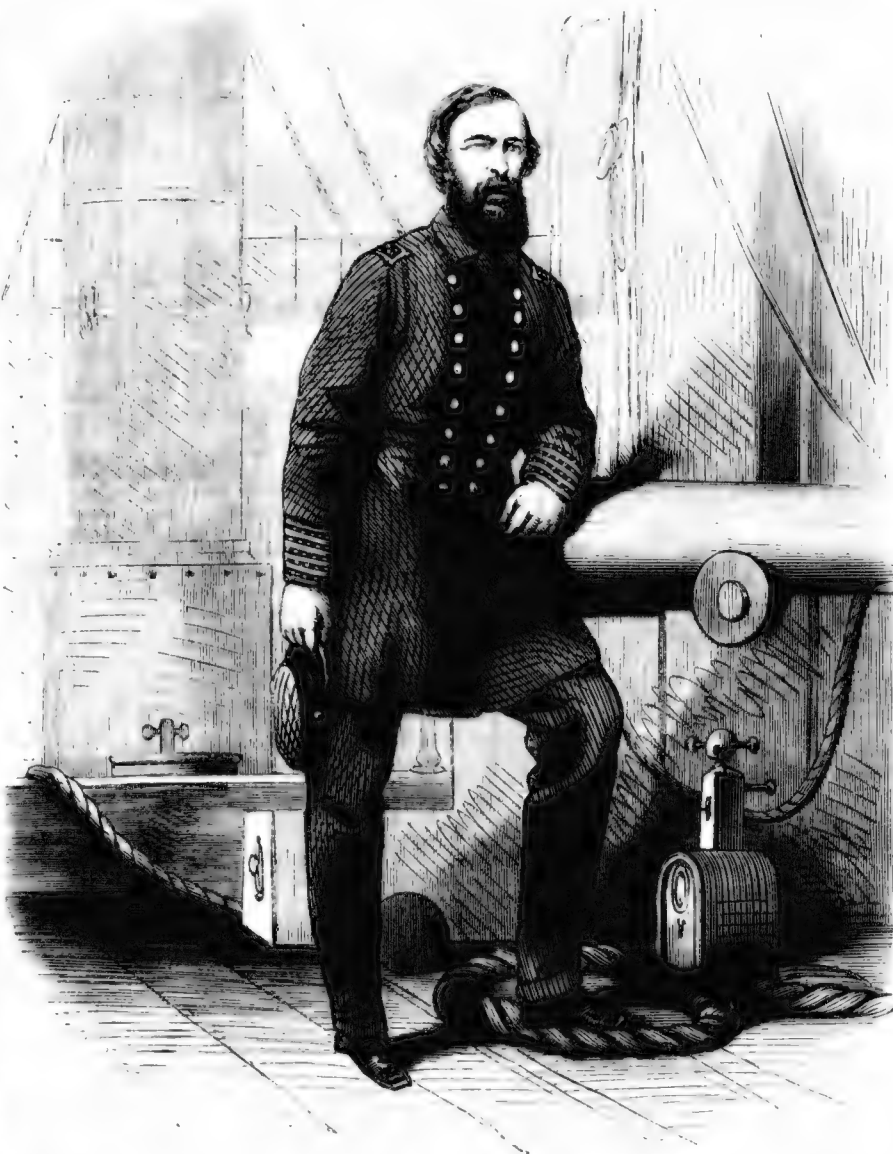
SAVANNAH.

THE American news which reached us two or three weeks ago brought the records of the war down to the last days of 1864, and one of the most important of its items—one, indeed, which is as suggestive as any which have been made known for several months—was the capture of the city of Savannah, of which we this week publish an Engraving. The place seems to have fallen into the hands of General Sherman, not as the result of great generalship or hard fighting, but without any attempt on the part of the garrison, under General Hardee, to defend it previous to its abandonment on the 20th of December. General Sherman simply walked in on the 21st, and took possession of 150 cannon and several thousand bales of cotton—a singular termination to that remarkable march through Georgia, which, if anything can be immortalised in America, will surely immortalise the General in the annals of this strange war.

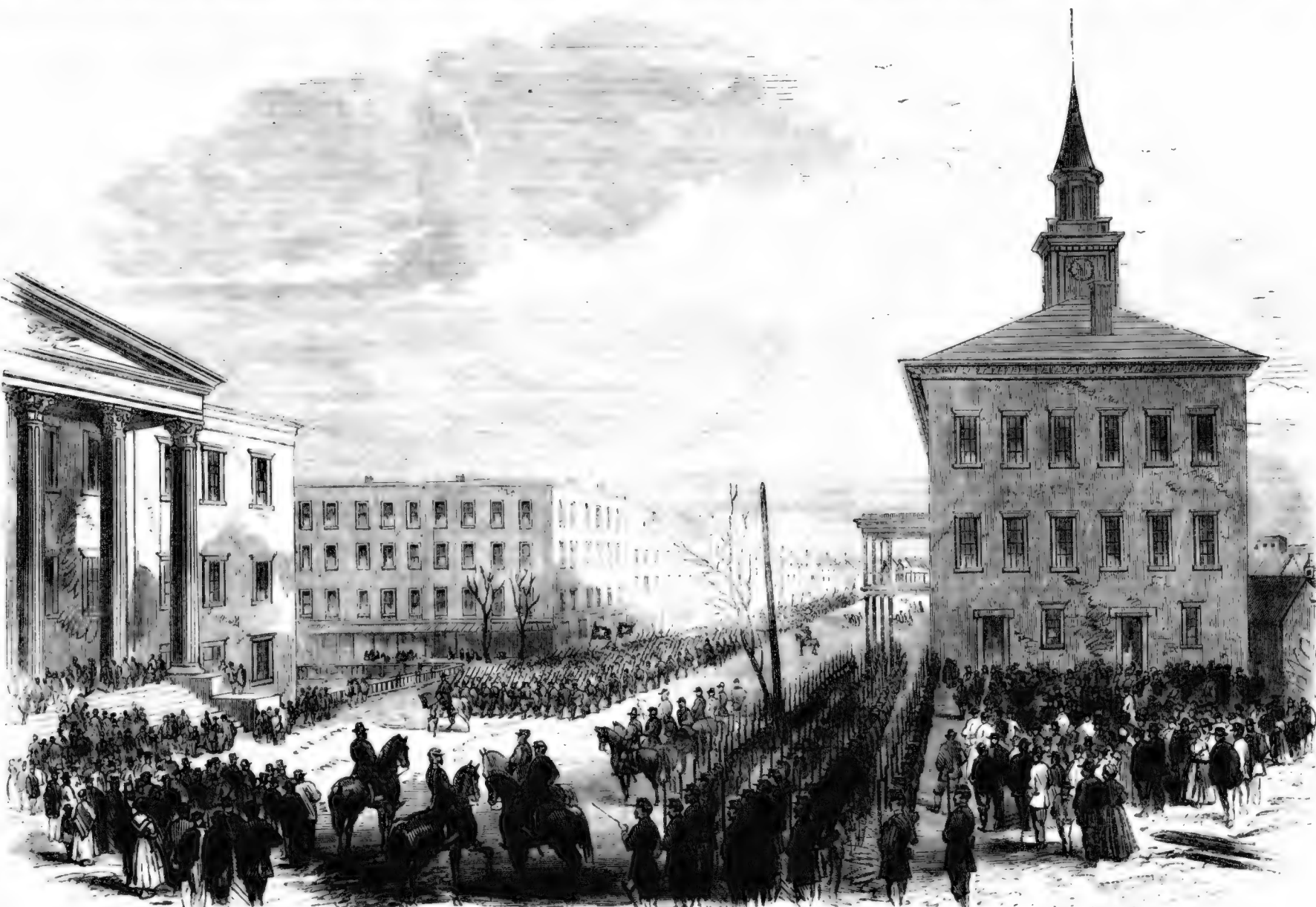
The entry of Sherman into Savannah is thus described by the correspondent of a New York journal:—

"Pretty closely investing the city, except at a point on the north side, directly across the river, Sherman determined to make an assault. Previous to this attempt, however, he sent a message to General Hardee, demanding the surrender of the city. The latter assumed a rather defiant attitude and refused; but, during the night, he slipped across the Savannah on a pontoon with his fifteen thousand men. The movement was soon observed by General Geary, who immediately pushed his division on into the city. Before his arrival he was met by the Mayor and Commonalty of Savannah, who surrendered the city unconditionally. The forts were then taken possession of, with all their ordnance. The rebels had destroyed their shipping. A floating-battery was sunk. The Savannah, a formidable war-vessel, was blown up. When the troops entered the city there was no disorder except that occasioned by ill-disposed people in the city, who plundered everything within reach. Even the rebel soldiers had been participating in acts of violence. Order was soon restored, and the next Sabbath the churches were attended as usual. General Geary was appointed Commander of the city, which was divided into two departments—the eastern and western—commanded respectively by Colonel Wood and Colonel Barnum. Geary took all the Commissary stores which he found in the city and placed them at the disposal of the Mayor and Common Council. It is estimated that 25,000 inhabitants remained in the city. Colonel Barnum's brigade was the first in town. General Sherman's loss, after he invested Savannah, was from 600 to 800 men."

The following Engraving shows the Federal troops entering the city at sunrise. Immediately after obtaining possession of Savannah, a Union newspaper was started by the conquerors, and a meeting of the inhabitants was held, at which resolutions approving of a return to the Union were passed. The Northern journals made a great fuss about this gathering, and declared that it proved that the Georgians had all along been opposed to secession, which they had been coerced into voting for.



ADMIRAL PORTER, OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.



THE ENTRY OF GENERAL SHERMAN'S TROOPS INTO SAVANNAH.

The Southern papers since assert, however, that the meeting was a mere sham, and that only twenty-seven citizens of Savannah were present.

The defences around Savannah seem to have been greatly over-estimated; and General Hardee, with only 15,000 troops under his command, could not defend the city against an enemy having thrice that number. He refused to surrender, however; and finally evacuated the place, leaving Sherman to enter and there find a sullen but unresisting population of 20,000, or about half the number of his own army.

There can be no doubt that the possession of Savannah gives the Federals a great advantage in holding a point near the seacoast, with communication with the fleet, and from which further operations may be carried on.

The town of Savannah, which lies on the right bank of the river of the same name, seventeen miles above its mouth in the Atlantic, may be said to have been built on the canal which connects the river with the Ogeechee; while its railway gave it immediate communication with the main lines of the interior and to the basin of the Mississippi. In its earlier history it obtained a rather unenviable reputation for unhealthiness, since it lies on a sandy flat, only about 40 ft. above the water; and the flat itself was bounded, at its eastern and western extremities, by marshes, while the neighbouring district was appropriated to the cultivation of rice. It was discovered, however, that the latter condition was the cause of the insalubrity of the place, and an arrangement was eventually effected, by which the citizens subscribed £14,000 in order to induce the proprietors of the rice-grounds to substitute the dry for the wet method of cultivation. The town is laid out with great regularity, in a series of spacious streets and squares, the former crossing each other at right angles, and generally lined with rows of trees; the latter formed by the intersection of the streets, and often inclosing a large space laid out in grass-plats and shady walks, very agreeable in the summer months.

Until 1820 a large proportion of the houses were built of wood; but in that year, a terrible fire having burnt down 463 of them and destroyed property to the value of £800,000, brick buildings were substituted, and many improvements made.

The public buildings of Savannah include fifteen or sixteen places of worship, among which the Independent Presbyterian church is the most striking, since it is an elegant structure, of light-coloured granite, and cost a sum of £20,000. The rest of the buildings consist of the hospital, the Jewish synagogue, the Court-house, asylums of different kinds, several fine banking-houses, the theatre, the hospital, the barracks, and the arsenal. The extent of the trade which before the war was carried on in Savannah is evident from the tall warehouses which are built along the river, and which are accessible from the wharves as well as from the adjacent streets.



MAJOR-GENERAL G. H. THOMAS, COMMANDER OF THE FEDERAL ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

When it is remembered that, besides its enormous trade in rice and lumber, Savannah was the principal entrepôt for the consignments of upland cotton, the importance of its warehouse

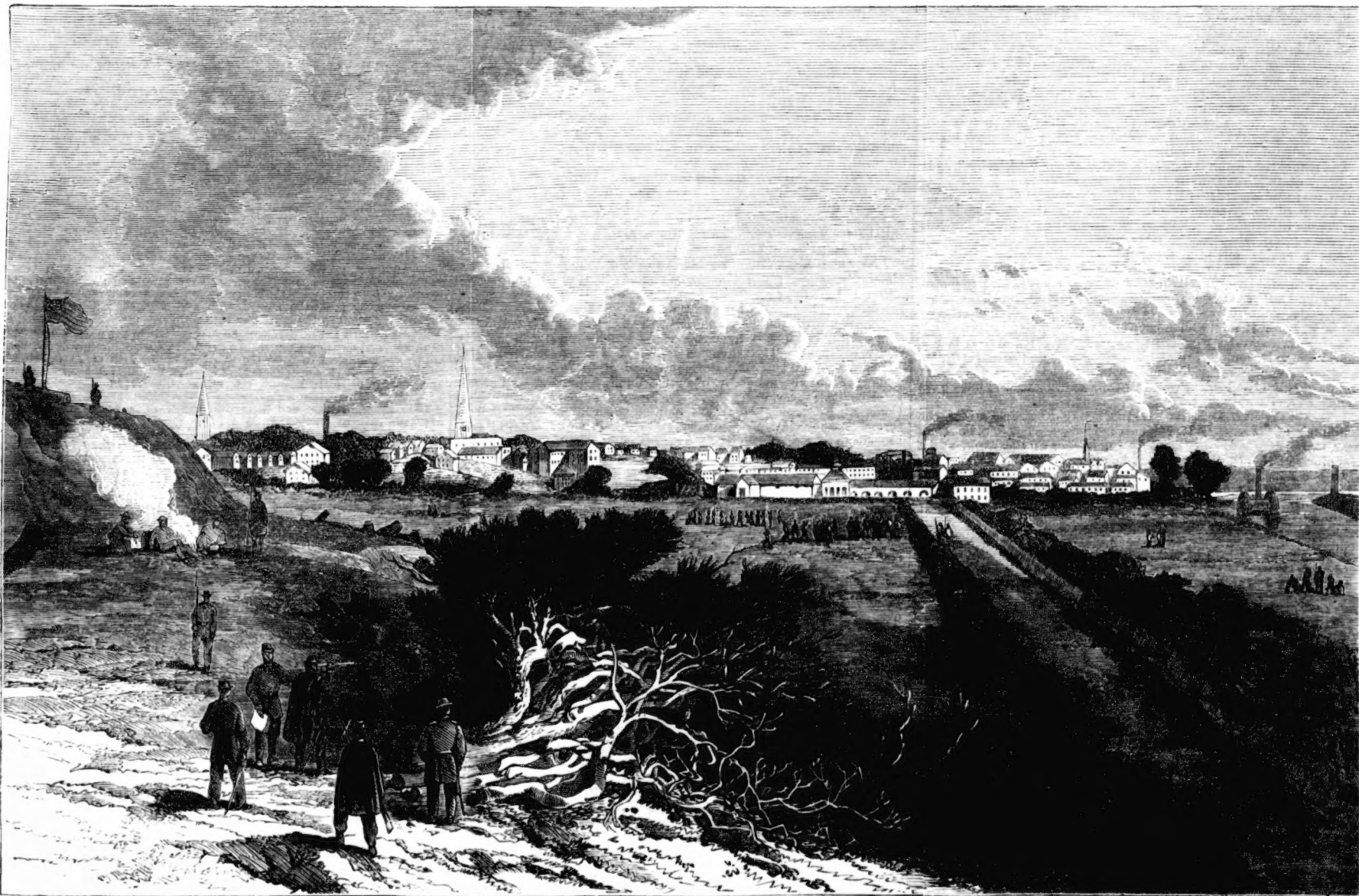
accommodation will be at once understood.

The harbour of Savannah is said to be one of the best in the States, and the bar at the mouth of the river has from 18 ft. to 21 ft. of water at ebb tide, while vessels drawing 15 ft. of water get up to the Five-fathom Hole, about three miles below the town, and those drawing only 13 ft. can lie alongside the wharves. Beyond this the navigation is continued for 250 miles or more by steam-vessels, and by pole-boats for about 150 miles further, beyond Augusta.

GENERAL G. H. THOMAS.

The recent events of the American war in Georgia have served still further to commend General Thomas as one of the ablest of the Federal Generals, and it would appear that the battle of Mill Spring, in which he first came forward to take a prominent part in the war, was but an opportunity which showed his capability of undertaking a more distinguished command. It will be remembered that in his recent campaign against Hood, General Thomas has been regarded as fully competent to conduct the entire Western force; and since the 16th of December, when he drove the Confederate General from his intrenchments to Brentwood Hills and captured a large number of prisoners and several pieces of artillery, he appears to have met with several successes, which were afterwards partially redeemed by the Confederates. At length, however, after considerable loss, Hood crossed the Duck River, and was immediately followed by Thomas as far as Pulaski, where he was joined by Forrest. Here the Federal army received a repulse from Hood's rear-guard, and was compelled to retire; but General Thomas continued to hold his position south of Pulaski, while it was believed that Hood was moving to strike the Tennessee at Bainbridge, near Florence. Subsequent events have still further served to display the ability and promptitude for which General Thomas has become famous; for by late advices we learn that he has compelled Hood to retire over the Tennessee, and has interposed his army between the Confederates and the Southern interior, thus cutting off communications between the three great armies of Secession.

The importance of General Thomas's success may be seen by a glance at the map. After his final defeat Hood, already severed from Georgia, hastened to secure his only way of retreat—the line which runs south from Corinth to Mobile. To accomplish this it was necessary to move westward, a course which left it in the power of the Federal commander to "cut in," as he did, and break off all the links that keep up Confederate communications between northern Mississippi and the south-eastern States. This manoeuvre may allow Hood to retire at his leisure renders co-operation with Beauregard or Lee exceedingly difficult, if not entirely out of the question. Before communication between the severed Southern armies can be again



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

restored, all Mississippi and half Alabama must be evacuated by the Confederate forces.

Both armies will probably go into winter quarters—the Federals at Eastport, to secure supplies by the Tennessee; the Confederates near Corinth, to keep up their communications with Mobile. Meanwhile Sherman still continues to keep friends and foes in doubt. With one section of his force he appears to threaten south-western Georgia—with what object it is difficult to say—while another is dispatched to join Foster at Beaufort, in South Carolina. When he began his march from Atlanta the world could not tell whether he was aiming at Macon, Augusta, or Savannah; now the world is equally at a loss to know whether he meditates an assault on Augusta, Branchville, or Charleston.

General George Thomas, who may be said to have taken the place of General Sherman in the western campaign, was born in Southampton, Virginia, in July, 1816, and graduated at West Point in 1840. In the regular army Thomas held, in 1861, the position once occupied by General Lee, that of Colonel of the Fifth Cavalry; but in 1863 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. After the battle of Mill Spring he commanded a corps in Buell's army, and retained the command of the same corps under Rosecranz. At the battle of Chickamauga he so greatly distinguished himself that it was said his courage and address saved the day for the Federals, and at the opening of Sherman's Georgian campaign he was appointed to the command of the army of the Cumberland—the largest of the three grand divisions under the General whose former position he has now been thought worthy to occupy.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

M. MAILLART'S "Lara" has now been performed some ten or twelve times at Her Majesty's Theatre, and the success it met with the first night of its production has been fully confirmed. Meyerbeer being dead, and Auber having ceased to write, M. Maillart has now a fine field open to him, in which he will find no competitor but M. Gounod. M. Gounod is the composer of "Faust," it is true; but how many other operas has he not produced—"Queens of Sheba," "Bleeding Nuns," "Sappho," and all sorts of things—of which (with the exception of "Mirella") no one remembers anything beyond the title? If we had to choose between M. Maillart and M. Gounod, we should certainly not name M. Maillart as the greater man of the two. But M. Maillart possesses the art of writing very agreeable music, and in the general estimation of the public he may be expected before long to rank quite as high as his more profound but less vivacious rival.

The opera of "Constance," by Mr. F. Clay and Mr. Thomas Roberton, was played every evening at Covent Garden until Thursday, when it was replaced by a new one, entitled "The River Sprite," by Mr. Frank Mori; the libretto by Mr. G. Linley. We hear nothing of "The Mock Doctor," except that it has been in rehearsal for many weeks past, and that it will certainly be produced during the present season.

The French papers speak of what they consider a very extravagant demand made by Mlle. Patti, or by her brother in law, M. Strakosch, on her behalf, for an engagement at Bordeaux. But it must be remembered that it is only a prospective and conditional demand. Mlle. Patti does not offer to sing at Bordeaux and demand 10,000 francs—the sum asked for in her name—in return. The directors of the Bordeaux Philharmonic Society inquire on what terms she will sing for them, and surely she has a right to name whatever terms she thinks fit; they, on their side, having an equal right to accede to them. Perhaps Mlle. Patti does not want to sing at Bordeaux at all. If so, she has taken a step which will doubtless prevent the directors of the Bordeaux Philharmonic Society from pressing her to do so.

Talking of Philharmonic Societies, we may mention that Mr. Hogarth, late secretary of the Philharmonic Society of London, has been succeeded in his post by Mr. Campbell Clarke.

If Meyerbeer only knew how rapidly they are getting up his "Africaine" at the French Opera! The scene-painters and carpenters are at work night and day. The five acts are known thoroughly by the singers, and the orchestral rehearsals have been begun—stringed and wind instruments rehearsing separately. Everything goes on under the general direction of M. Fétis, or "Fétis," as he loves to sign his name; and to this well-known musical biographer, but by no means eminent composer, will be left the task of choosing between various readings of certain passages which Meyerbeer had either not quite finished or had finished twice over.

It is even said that M. Fétis will supply music for the ballet, which it is to be hoped will not be long, and which the directors of the Opera would do well to omit altogether if Meyerbeer has not already provided for it in his score. Remembering the brilliant dance-music of "Robert" and "Le Prophète"—which who that has heard it can forget?—it would be sad indeed to have to listen to the biographical, necrological strains of "Fétis." The fourth act contains a grand march, in which a number of dancing-girls appear; and a chorus with dances occurs in the finale to this act. That ought to be enough, and would already give us as much ballet as is introduced in the "Huguenots."

The reader has, perhaps, not forgotten that the "Africaine" ends with the death of the heroine, Cécilia? She dies singing beneath the upas-tree; and it appears that Meyerbeer had intended to indicate the nature of her dying dreams by moving figures. Here again the irresistible ballet-girl would, of course, have been employed. But no music has been written for the situation, and no one (not even "Fétis") could have the presumption to supply it. Probably Meyerbeer himself had not quite decided how to carry out his idea. It seems to us that it was susceptible of—and also that it required—highly poetical treatment; for the result, if it had not been thoroughly beautiful, would have been grotesque. In Meyerbeer's hands, however, it would have been sublime.

Meyerbeer's note-book contained two dénouements, and it is not known which he intended to adopt, or whether he had made up his mind on the subject at all. The note-book also shows that "Nelusco" was originally called "Yarico"—a name which would at once have suggested an entirely different story.

It is said that "L'Africaine" will be brought out in Paris at the beginning of March, and that two months afterwards we shall hear it London. M. Brandus is the publisher of the work, and a pianoforte edition of the score is to be offered for sale the morning after the first representation. Three publishing houses in London have combined to purchase the English copyright—Messrs. Boosey, Messrs. Chappell, and (we believe) the joint-stock company entitled "Cramer and Co."

A FIRE broke out at Sanfringham Hall on Thursday morning, but was confined to the room in which it originated.

EXTENSIVE JEWEL ROBBERIES.—There would seem to be an organised system of burglary having for its object the plunder of jewellers' shops. Two cases are this week reported—one at Manchester, the other in London—in which the thieves have carried off large plunder. Between Saturday night and Monday morning the shop of Mr. Walker, jeweller, of Cornhill, was entered by thieves, his safe was broken open, and jewellery valued at several thousand pounds was stolen. The burglars appear to have gone to work in a most systematic manner. They must have secreted themselves on Saturday night in rooms occupied as offices above the shop, then cut a hole through the ceiling into the shop of a tailor, next door to Mr. Walker, and afterwards made their way through the floor into the room where the jewellery was kept. The curious thing is that the policemen on duty near the shop never seem to have discovered that a robbery had been committed, although a light was kept burning inside and panes of glass in the doors admitted a view of the safe-room. It was only when the shop was opened by Mr. Walker's assistant on Monday morning that the robbery was discovered. A reward of £1000 has been offered for the detection of the burglars, and an attempt is now making to increase that reward by a second £1000, to be raised by subscription among the mercantile firms in the City. Great dissatisfaction is felt at the inefficiency of the police as shown on this and some other occasions. In Manchester the shop broken into was that of Mr. Howard, at the corner of Market-street and Corporation-street. The *modus operandi* seems to have been very much here as in Mr. Walker's case. The thieves got clear off with the bulk of Mr. Howard's stock. Attempts were made on other jewellers' shops in Manchester, but they failed.

FINE ARTS.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION. (FIRST NOTICE.)

OPENING as it does in the early part of the year, when painting-light has been very scarce, the British Institution can hardly be expected to abound in very first-class pictures. This year, however, it certainly rises above the average, although the really meritorious works run some risk of being swamped by the multiplicity of canvases which it would have been a real kindness to all concerned—artists and public—to have rejected.

The place of honour, in the North Room, has been given—possibly on the ground of size rather than merit—to Mr. Andsell's "Death of Cæsar" (1), a huge boar-hound killed, by canine conspiracy, at the foot of the statue of "Pompey," a pug. We have seldom seen a picture of his that pleased us less. The colouring has a garish vulgarity, and the treatment of the subject is rather burlesque than allegory. It is impossible not to think how admirably the painter of "Alexander and Diogenes" would have handled the theme, which is really a capital one. In the last-named picture the parallel between the human actors and the canine is carried out without confusion; for instance, the tub of Diogenes is, without any straining, the same thing as the kennel of the cur. In Mr. Andsell's picture, the bronze dog on the pedestal inscribed "Pompey" is a grotesque invention, bordering on caricature; not an adaptation of anything actually existing. We need hardly say that Mr. Andsell's dogs are capitally painted—more especially the dead Cæsar and the lean Cassius (an ill-conditioned greyhound). Brutus is not present, or his expression of remorse and dejection is not happily caught.

The North Room contains Sir Edwin Landseer's three contributions. "Dear Old Boz" (85), a late favourite of her Majesty's, painted with true Landseer appreciation of dog-character. We are not altogether prepared, however, to endorse what we understand is Sir Edwin's opinion—that it is the best dog he has painted; but our hesitation rises from the excellence of many others we remember, not from any lack of power in this one. "No Hunting till the Weather Breaks" (189)—the hounds and the hunter in the stackyard thrown out of employ by the snow—is quite in Sir Edwin's old style. A hound in front, engaged in the pursuit of entomology, is very fine, and the pertness of the little robin, who appears to be twitting the hounds with his little bit of "pink," is capital. But the best picture of Sir Edwin's here exhibited is "An Event in the Forest" (204). An event indeed, for one of the antlered kings of the forest has met his death, and has come crashing down over the ledges of rock, falling with a dull thud on the snow-covered steep. Forth from his lair creeps Reynard, bent on a feast, and makes his crafty way to the prostrate carcass, licking his cruel, hungry lips. There is no one astrid along the craggy glen, where the brook brawls half seen through the scud and drift, lit faintly by the bow which the sun hangs therein. But hark! Reynard pricks his ears; there's a hoarse scream and the surging of wind in mighty pinions, and down swoops the lordly eagle, guided by that mysterious additional sense of his to the scene of death. At this moment the painter has arrived on the spot. Above, in the drift, hangs the bird on outspread wings, his yellow talons displayed; and in front pauses Reynard, with ears erect, and the contest between hunger and hesitation betokened by his very attitude (though his back is towards us), is shown as only Sir Edwin could show it.

"The Rival Leaders" (190), by Mr. Courtland, is rather landscape than animal painting, for the contending bulls are the least satisfactory part of it. The sky is well done; but one cannot avoid a conviction that there is a great deal of canvas "to let." A similar impression is created by M. de Prade's "Travelling in Russia" (84), in which the horses are drawn and painted with considerable skill, but hardly "up to the weight" of the picture, as the stable minded would say.

"Music" (201)—a dog howling at the mouth of a kennel—by Mr. A. W. Cooper, is not without merit; and a very intelligent Toby, "The Genius of the Drama" (221), by Mr. W. Weekes, is a lifelike bit of dog-portraiture. "His First Bird" (63)—a young pup bringing his master the bird he has just shot—is full of character. The youngster's expression of mingled wonder, pride, and doubt is caught in the happiest manner. The name of the artist, Mr. A. Simms, is a new one; but if he continue to paint like this we shall expect to hear more of him.

"Desperate Poachers" (163), by Mr. H. Hall, is a truthful study of the habits of wild creatures; and "Unretrieved" (193), by Mr. Melville, has some good points; while Mr. Arnfield's "Unexpected Visitor" (40) is better in conception than execution, although the Blenheim is far from badly painted.

Of the figure subjects in this room—perhaps in the whole gallery—by far the best is Mr. Richmond's "Three Sisters" (118), an exquisite composition, remarkable for a brilliance and purity of colour not always found in the pre-Raphaelite school, towards which Mr. Richmond shows a leaning. Nothing can be more beautiful and truthful than the thoughtful face of the centre girl, unless it be that of the meditative maiden with auburn curls on her right hand. The background is a marvellously-painted bit of rocky moorland, and the whole picture is suffused with a subdued light, while the shadows are transparent and entirely free from browns or blacks.

Mr. Rossiter has several small pictures on the walls, every one of them worthy of careful study. The best, to our fancy, is "The Waverer" (31), a vacillating, gloomy gentleman, who has just received a summons to arms that must make him decide whether he will be for King or Parliament. His wife, we conjecture a loyal lady, tries to urge him to the point by good-natured banter. "Youth and Age" (105), by Mr. Alexander Johnston, is not unpleasantly painted; and "The Dead Heat" (162), by M. Ludovici—a group of gamins scrambling for a copper—is clever, though just a suspicion of exaggeration suggests itself.

The figure of the hired witness, in Mr. Crawford's "Man of Straw" (3), is marked by considerable humour, and the face is really excellent. The advocate is less happily conceived. Mr. Wyburd's picture this year—"Baby's Corner" (51)—has a coldness which we do not generally observe in his colouring. In other respects it is very charming. Mr. Deane's peasants from "The Coast of Normandy" (34) are painted with great dash and a thorough appreciation of colour that reminds us of Mr. Philip; the shadows are a little black in places, which is to be regretted, the picture as a whole being one of the best in the collection. A "Stitch in Time" (134), by Mr. Hemsley, is a pleasing little bit of colour, and will attract attention on more artistic grounds than those on which a lady declared it within our hearing to be very interesting—namely, the possibility of the girl's figure being painted from Miss McDermott, of Oratorian celebrity.

Among the studies of heads Mr. Phillips's "Suleiman" (174) claims the foremost place for richness and contrast in colour, as well as for the masterly realisation of the flesh. Mr. Long's "Gitanito" (14), a saucy Spanish pipsy imp, is another capital study; nor must Mr. Houston's "Garde Champêtre" (54) be passed over without a word of special commendation.

"The Mountain Child" (219), by Mr. F. Holl, who exhibits also a picture to which we drew attention in the last Academy—"Turned Out of Church" (147)—is a meritorious little picture. In Mr. Lucas's "Last Lucifer Match" (9) there is a great deal of honest work and careful observation, whilst the background is perfectly delicious.

A girl's head, by Mr. W. Anderson, entitled "Dreamland" (57), is probably a portrait, but a more charming picture of a child we do not remember to have seen. The great grave eyes fixed on vacancy, and the sweetly-thoughtful expression of the mouth are vividly real, and painted with exquisite tenderness. Two female heads (30 and 178) by Messrs. Girardot and Perugini are graceful and free from affectation, the colouring of both being good. As for Mr. Hall's irrepressible young lady, if she were only as tired of sitting to him, and he as tired of painting her, as we are of viewing her under all sorts of circumstances, we feel sure that the world would be the happier for it.

Mr. Frost exhibits a "Naiad" (138) in the North Room, but

the colouring is cold and unreal. Mr. Patten's "Innocence" (68) is disfigured by the grimace which the mother makes to her child. "Composing his Love Speech" (109), by Mr. Wynfield, is not without good points, but it is a little too pretentious—failing to satisfy the expectations it rouses. "The Sorceress" (141), by Mr. Lemon, is exaggerated and dirty; the only merit it possesses being that it reminds us that a similar subject has been painted already by Mr. Sandys, as only Mr. Sandys could paint it.

In landscape there is, as might be expected, a larger number of pictures which deserve a word of praise. A "Harvest-Field at Noonday" (4), by Mr. Vicat Cole, is one of those faithful transcripts of nature which have made his name dear to all who love English scenery. The billowy corn, like a sea of gold over which the swallows skim; the island of trees and the homestead in the middle distance, and the lovely sun-warm hills stretching away beyond, are painted with the loving hand of a master. Mr. Mignot comes next, perhaps, with "A Sunny Afternoon in Warwickshire" (69), in which he proves that he can paint the beauties of our temperate climes as successfully as the glories of the tropics. "The Cottage Homestead" (38), by Mr. Jutsum, is a glimpse of lovely country, marked with the skill and careful work we seldom or never miss in his pictures. Some capital foliage in Mr. Deakin's "Morning Among the Welsh Hills" (95) wins for it a high place in the list of merit.

"London from Vauxhall" (195), by Mr. Dawson, is an ambitious picture; but its bold and masterly treatment are to the full as successful as they deserve to be. The painting of the sky is excellent, and the wash of the water coming in on the shore is thoroughly real.

Another bold and successful picture is Mr. Oakes's "Quietude" (58). The rosy light glowing on the peaks of rock and melting in the whiffs of mist that curl around the summits is gloriously painted, while the sombre grandeur of the mountain side and the silver of the sleeping tarn are realised with intense feeling. The sky is a capital bit of effect, and the broken lights on the trees in front are very telling. Let the visitor, however, be warned that to see this picture properly he will do wisely to reserve its consideration until he gets a glimpse of sunshine.

"Near Dolgelly" (36), by Mr. Pettitt, is remarkable for the clever arrangement of the greens. "Angera, on the Lago Maggiore" (110), by Mr. G. C. Stanfield, lacks warmth, but is cleverly drawn, and remarkable for conscientious elaboration of minute detail. Mr. Boddington's "View on the Thames near Goring" (224) can boast of the same finish, and is a most pleasing little landscape.

Mr. F. Dillon exhibits three pictures, in which there is less to be seen of a woodlouse than at times mars his best effects. His "Monte Pellegrino" (96) is a most successful work; and his "Grain-boats on the Nile" (137) is excellent. The view of "Castelbel, in the Tyrol" (140), is in a very different style from his general work, but is exceedingly good. From its breadth and boldness we should be inclined to think it a sketch taken on the spot. Mr. Mignot's "Cordilleras" (179) is a splendid picture. The still water, the tall feathery palms, the luxuriant herbage are all bathed in a warm glow that tells of tropical heat and the drowsiness of a land that ripens under the very eye of the sun.

"Midnight—the Black Mountain, Argyll—Early Winter" (212), by Mr. A. Gilbert, is one of those moonlight effects which he paints only too well and too often. If this really clever artist would learn of Nature to vary his work, how much the world would be benefited! He appears to forget that no two moonlight nights are alike; whereas he repeats his particular passages of effect to almost a risk of wearisomeness. Mr. Sidney Percy is another artist who allows a mannerism to destroy the legitimate effect of really good painting. His "Pass of Llanberis" (45), in this room, is spoilt by the metallic magenta hue he infuses into it. Why does not some kind friend lock away the tube of that mischievous purple-red? Our space will not allow of our doing more than mentioning, *en passant*, Mr. Dearle's "Rest by the Wayside" (136), Mr. Roffe's "Frosty Morning" (211), Mr. Williams's "Medmenham Abbey" (173), Mr. Johnson's "Welch Bridge" (218) and "Wood Scene" (64), Mr. Dearmer's "Lake of Killarney" (55), Mr. Smith's "Evening" (37), Mr. T. Danby's fine "Glen Dovey" (74), Mr. Collier's "Cornish Roadside" (19), Mr. Foot's "Moorland Stream" (120), Mr. J. Smith's "Wae-fall" (128), Mr. Callow's "Fairlight Glen" (130), and Mr. Luker's two really excellent Oxfordshire views (187, 199). Of marine pictures there are not very many, but they are most of them good. In this room are three of four capital specimens of Mr. Cooke's masterly treatment of the sea and shipping; an exceedingly meritorious picture, by Mr. Melby, of a "Scotch Fishing-boat in a Heavy Sea" (67); a "Sunset off Shakspeare's Cliff" (60), by Mr. Powell; "A Coast Scene" (214), by Mr. Williamson; "A Stranded Cutter" (164), by Mr. Borrow; and a "Ship in Distress," by Mr. Meadows; and we may here add a coast scene—"Back from Fishing" (124), by Miss E. Hill—all of which are deserving of high commendation.

We shall conclude our notice of the institution next week.

THE LATE JULES GERARD.—A letter has been addressed to M. Leon Bertrand by the mother of the unfortunate Jules Gerard, the lion-hunter, in which, after thanking him for all his kindness to her son, she implores his aid for herself. She states that she is eighty years of age, in a state of extreme destitution, and has four orphan grand-daughters dependent on her for a living. Moved by this appeal, M. Bertrand has made arrangements for opening a subscription in her favour; and M. Devisme, gonsmith, 36, Boulevard des Italiens, has consented to receive whatever contributions the charitable may be disposed to give.

THE PAUPER'S WILL.—The pauper's will was again discussed at the meeting of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians on Tuesday. Smart, the alleged heir to large property, had been examined by a committee appointed to inquire into the matter, and he had declared that he never made a will, and never intended that Mr. Morrison, the master of the workhouse, should be his residuary legatee. What he had done was to sign a document giving a guarantee to Mr. Bishop for any expenses to which he might be put in recovering the property. On this point the master contradicted him. The evidence was ordered to be printed, with a view of the matter being taken into consideration by the board at a future time.

ECLIPSES IN 1865.—There will be four eclipses in the present year—two of the sun and two of the moon—the first being a partial eclipse of the moon, which will take place early on the morning of the 11th of April. It will commence at 3.45 a.m. the middle of the eclipse being at 4.38 a.m., and ending at 5.31, though the moon will set in London at 5.11, or 20 min. before the eclipse ends. The moon at the time of the middle of the eclipse will be in the zenith of a place the longitude of which, east of Greenwich, is 69.4 deg. nearly, and latitude less than 9.4 deg. S. The second, a total eclipse of the sun, invisible in England, will take place on April 25. It will be visible from the Great Southern Ocean, from part of South America, the Atlantic Ocean, and part of Africa. As a partial eclipse it will be also visible at the Cape of Good Hope. The eclipse will begin at 37 minutes past noon, Greenwich time, in longitude 88 deg. nearly W. of Greenwich, and in latitude 41.5 deg. S. The central eclipse at noon will be 4 minutes to 2 p.m., Greenwich time, in longitude 29.4 deg. W. of Greenwich, and in latitude 16 deg. 40 min. S.; and the eclipse will end at 4 p.m., Greenwich time nearly, in longitude 31.4 deg. E. of Greenwich, and in latitude 4.5 deg. S. At the Cape of Good Hope the eclipse will begin at 13 minutes after 2 p.m.; the middle will be at 12 minutes after 3 p.m., when rather less than one half the diameter will be obscured; and it will end at 4 minutes past 5 p.m., Greenwich mean time. The third will be a partial eclipse of the moon, on the 4th day of October. This will be visible from England. On this day the moon rises at a quarter past 5, and is due south 10 minutes before midnight. The eclipse will begin at 21 minutes to 10 p.m. and will end at 19 minutes before midnight; but the whole extent covered will be only a third part of the moon's diameter. The fourth is an eclipse of the sun, on the 19th of October. This will be annular at some places, but will be visible as a partial eclipse only from England. At London the eclipse will begin at 12 minutes past 4 p.m., while the middle of the eclipse will be at 9 minutes past 5; but on this day the sun will set at 4.57, so that the greatest phase (less than one third of the sun) will not be seen. The eclipse will commence at Cambridge at 12 minutes past 4 p.m., at Oxford at 6 minutes past 4 p.m., at Liverpool at 4 minutes to 4 p.m., at Edinburgh at 8 minutes to 4 p.m., and at Dublin at 20 minutes to 4.48, in the local times at these places. The sun will set at Edinburgh at a minute sooner than in the metropolis. The central eclipse begins at 19 minutes to 3 o'clock, Greenwich time, in long. 123 deg., nearly W. of Greenwich, and lat. 47.7 deg. N., nearly. It will be central in a line passing from North America over the North Atlantic Ocean to Africa, and joining places the longitude and latitude of which are:—W. long. 123 deg. and N. lat. 47.7 deg.; W. long. 105 deg. and N. lat. 43 deg.; W. long. 81.5 deg. and N. lat. 34 deg.; W. long. 69.4 deg. and N. lat. 27 deg.; W. long. 51 deg. and N. lat. 17 deg.; W. long. 27 deg. and N. lat. 1.4 deg.; and W. long. 7.4 deg. and N. lat. 17 deg.

LAW AND CRIME.

MR. COLLETTE, of the firm of Pritchard and Collette, solicitors, applied to Mr. Arnold, at the Westminster Police Court, for a summons against Father Bowden and others, on a charge of conspiracy and abduction, in the matter of the daughter of Mrs. M'Dermott. The leading incidents of the case were already sufficiently notorious; but Mr. Collette alleged that he was in a position to prove, by means of a certificate of birth, that the girl was under sixteen years of age. But this certificate was only from the books of some lying-in institution. Mr. Arnold declined to grant a summons unless the charge were fully corroborated, prima facie, by evidence. Mr. Collette failed to connect Father Bowden with the supposed abduction, except by his own admissions, at the Court, upon a previous occasion; but he (Mr. Collette) could not give the required evidence even of these. He proposed to adduce secondary evidence as to the contents of certain letters; but this was clearly inadmissible. The application was refused. Later in the day Mr. Collette applied for summonses against several persons, on a charge of conspiracy arising out of the same affair. This was also refused. Mr. Collette's zeal appears to have outrun his legal discretion. Had the evidence proposed to be given been adduced before Mr. Selfe on a former occasion, perhaps a summons might have been granted—perhaps Father Bowden would never have made the admissions which Mr. Collette now seeks to establish against him. Certainly, on such evidence, even on ex parte affidavits, any Judge of the superior Courts would have ordered a habeas corpus. This proceeding would now be futile. The girl has been restored to her mother, and has again left her home, leaving no clue to her present residence. Mr. Collette has been outwitted. He states that he has acted under the advice of a first-rate counsel in criminal law. It is to be regretted that this gentleman, whoever he may be, had not been permitted to carry out the case entirely and from the first; and also that Mrs. M'Dermott herself appears to have been ignorant of the exact age of her own child, until reminded of it by a certificate not of such an official character as to be legally intrinsic evidence. The Brompton Oratorians have been wily and successful; but the other side has been by no means praiseworthy in its conduct of the case, or strong in its materials for a prosecution.

In a recent case, in which the plaintiff claimed compensation from the Great Eastern Railway Company for injuries sustained upon their line, his counsel, Mr. Joyce, conducted the examination of a medical witness in a novel and excellent manner. The learned counsel requested the surgeon to give his evidence in popular language. With this request the witness complied, describing (as the reports tell us) "a bruise as a bruise and a bleeding as a bleeding;" instead of the one as a contusion, and the other as a hemorrhage. "Both bones of the plaintiff's leg," said the witness, "were broken, and one of them splintered." All this is very much better, because more intelligible to a jury, than talking about fractures (one of them being comminuted) of the tibia and fibula. Let us hope that the rational system thus started by Mr. Joyce, and followed by the witness, Dr. Sansom, may be remembered and acted upon in our courts. There was nothing else worthy of record in the case, in which the jury was discharged without delivering a verdict.

A young man was walking with two friends near St. Giles's Church, when a French waiter passed, carrying a basin slung in a handkerchief. The waiter imagined the young fellow laughed at him, and, without further provocation, struck him on the head with the basin, which broke, and wounded him severely. The Frenchman was taken before Mr. Knox and remanded for a week, in order to ascertain the result of the injury to the prosecutor, but allowed to go at large upon his own recognisance for £5. A jagged wound of the head frequently results in erysipelas and death. If such should be the result in this case, the defendant will probably prefer to forfeit a paltry recognisance, which can never be recovered if he choose to return to his own country, rather than appear to answer a charge of manslaughter.

Kohl, the German assassin, died without confession. It is supposed that he postponed until too late his intention of making one. It will be remembered that Müller only confessed at the last moment. Perhaps the reason may have been the same in both cases. By German law a murderer cannot be executed until he has confessed his crime. This may appear to give him a long lease of life; but this is not the practical result, as the life of the convicted homicide is rendered so miserable that he is glad enough, before long, to be quit of it. No doubt the influence of the law under which these two criminals had been trained tended to delay, and in one case to prevent, the admission of guilt.

One of the most mischievous scoundrels of modern times has this week, under the name of Dr. Smethwick, received a sentence of five years' penal servitude. He is the fellow who, some years ago, under the name of Borromeo, hoaxed a daily journal by a report of proceedings at an Italian Convention in London, the whole affair being an entire fiction. He was prosecuted on this account for obtaining money under false pretences, and sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months. It was then discovered that he had committed polygamy, having married several ladies in order to obtain possession of their property. For this also he was punished. His last exploit has been swindling tradesmen of goods, some of which consisted of expensive articles of attire for a young woman, a mere girl, whom he had beguiled from her home and her widowed mother under promise of marriage. He had also been a quack doctor, and had published handbills recommending patients to consult him in all cases of disease. He addressed, before sentence, a penitential letter to the Judge. In this he urged that his body was covered with scars received in the Crimean War. The fact was that he had been forced to fight a duel with a gentleman at Florence, whom he had cheated at cards, and who wounded him in the ankle.

Her Majesty's Speech holds out the hope of several important legal reforms. Among these are the concentration of the law courts (which it is to be hoped will include rendering them convenient and fit for their purpose) and revision of the statute law and poor law. Nothing is promised in the way of improvement of the bankruptcy muddle; but, as the Lord Chancellor himself had to deliver the Royal Address, the omission may be easily explained.

Beware of advertisements offering the loan of money. From a statement made this week at Marlborough-street Police Court, it appears that one of the latest devices in the swindling way is to issue such advertisements, and, upon receiving a reply from a dupe, to take from him a bonus, besides interest upon the pretended advance and a bill of exchange for the amount required. The flat never receives a farthing, but has to pay the amount of his bill, when due, to some unknown person—an innocent holder for a valuable consideration, of course. The advertiser is not to be found at his published address, where he has been allowed to have letters addressed to him under any name he may find it convenient to adopt.

PO. ICE.

RIPE FOR A REFORMATORY.—Esther Hammond, under fourteen years of age, with a remarkably sinister expression of features, was charged with robbing her father, a coal porter, of Sheep-lane, Hackney, who stated—Last Saturday night when I went home I could not see anything of this girl, who is my own child; but I found that a chest of drawers I have been broken nearly to pieces. They had been broken at the back part, and I missed 6s. in silver and 9s. in coppers—all the money I had. Last night she was taken into custody, and then she told me all the money had gone in coffee-shops and sweetstuffs.

Magistrate.—How many children have you?
Father.—Four more besides this one, Sir; and since their mother died I have been obliged to keep her at home to mind them.

Magistrate.—Has she ever robbed you before?
Father.—Well, about five months ago she broke open a money-box and stole 8s. from me. I brought her here for that, and was told to take her home and give her another chance. For a time she behaved pretty well, considering all things, but still not honest; for, although she did not rob me, she robbed two little girls in the street—one of 1s. 6d. and the other of 3d. I am afraid that she is going to the bad, and things are not bright with me, for my work is but casual now, in consequence of the accident to my ankle in the service of my last master.

The magistrate manifestly sympathised with this poor man, and the girl, who merely said that she had been told to rob her father by one of her companions, was remanded.

REVIVAL OF THE "PITCH-PLASTER" SYSTEM.—S. Coster, alias Ginger, Jane Tyler, and Mary Ann Smith were brought up on remand before Mr. Paget charged with being concerned in assaulting an old man named Mark Reynolds, and robbing him of a bag containing £63 8s. 6d.

Mr. C. Young, solicitor for the prosecution, said the circumstances of this robbery were of a most audacious description. The old man Reynolds was in the employ of Rickett and Smith, extensive coal merchants. He was in the practice of carrying a bag of money every evening from a store belonging to the prosecutors in the Mile-end-road to another store of his employers in the Commercial-road, Ratcliff. On the 21st of December last he was carrying, slung across his shoulders, a bag containing £63 8s. 6d. He was within thirty yards of his destination, when a wet cloth covered with treacle was thrown over his face. He was temporarily blinded, thrown down, and the bag of money taken from him. When he recovered he went across the road, and saw Coster, who was running away. The fellow escaped. On Jan. 23 police officer No. 253 K. found two of the prisoners—Coster and Smith—at No. 8, Ingle-street, Shacklewell. They had been living there about a month. The room they were in was filled with new furniture, which Coster had purchased a few days after the robbery. Before the bag of money was stolen he was in great poverty. The girl Smith was apprehended in the Bedford Arms public-house, in Bedford-street, Stepney, on the same night, and on being told she was charged with being concerned with three others in stealing a bag of money from an old man on the 21st of December last, she said, "Yes; I had £3 10s. of the money, Bill Hurley had £3 10s., and Sam Coster and Jane Tyler had the remainder of the money."

Several witnesses proved that the prisoners were near the spot where the robbery was committed. In cross-examination by Mr. Gomm, Reynolds would not swear that Coster was the man he had seen running away. The witness committed many discrepancies.

Mr. Paget was of opinion the case against Coster and Tyler was very weak, but stronger against Smith. He remanded the prisoners for another week.

THE CASE OF THE RAPPANNOCK.

THIS was an indictment under the Foreign Enlistment Act against an officer in her Majesty's dockyard at Sheerness, for having been concerned in the manning and equipping a gun-boat of 500 tons' burden, was sold by the Admiralty in November, 1863, to Messrs. Coleman and Co., who really purchased for one Pearson. The ostensible purchaser, however, and the only parties who were known to the Admiralty in the transaction, were Coleman and Co., at whose request some assistance was rendered at the dockyard for her repairs. The defendant, who was Inspector of Machinery Afloat, was acquainted with the real purchaser, Pearson, and was constantly on board with him and one Ramsay, who appeared to have acted as temporary commander, and one Ferguson, the chief engineer. Several persons in the dockyard service, particularly two persons named Bagshaw, a boiler-maker, and Beardsall, a fitter, were in constant communication with the defendant, and men were engaged to go "on a trial-trip," the ultimate destination given out being China. The vessel started at midnight on Tuesday, Nov. 24, a Government tug showing her way. She next day got to Calais. On the voyage the name—which had been originally the Victor, and was first altered to the Scylla—was changed to the Rappannock, and the Confederate flag was hoisted. A Captain Campbell and a number of officers in grey uniform came on board at Calais and took the command. It was not quite clear whether the defendant went with her; but he was on board the night she started, and was at Calais soon after she got there; and it was proved that he was there, in the cabin—when the Confederate flag was flying, and the Confederate Captain on board—while the men were being paid. He admitted, however, having interested himself in getting men on board to repair the boilers; and his account of it was that he went over to Calais, as she had gone away suddenly, to see that they were paid; and, gone away, he swore that he had said at Sheerness to the defendant, when the French Government stopped the ship at Calais, and our Government ordered an inquiry into the matter, which was conducted by Mr. V. Harcourt, and which resulted in the present prosecution, in which the defendant was first charged with causing to be engaged in the Confederate service twelve men, most of whom were called and examined as witnesses. The witnesses for the prosecution were severely cross-examined as to certain treating which they confessed to have shared at the hands of one O'Kelly, who was called on Friday, but whom both sides declined to examine; and it is due to those who conducted the prosecution on the part of the Crown to state that it was not at all suggested that this man acted in connection with them; and, on the contrary, it appeared that, from the Admiralty—through the hands of their respectable solicitors at Rochester—the witnesses only received the usual and proper "subsistence-money" to which witnesses are entitled who are detained in this country and so deprived of wages. In December the trial was adjourned on account of the absence of two persons (young Mr. Rumble and one Greathead), in whose presence one of the witnesses, a man named Newman, swore the defendant said he was going to see the Confederate agent. These persons were now in attendance and were examined, and both of them distinctly contradicted Newman.

After a hearing which extended over four days, the jury returned a verdict of acquittal.

SELLING A WIFE AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

A FEW weeks ago a paragraph went the round of the papers to the effect that a man residing at Wolverhampton had sold his wife and three blooming children to an American adventurer for £150. The wife left her lawful husband and, with the three children, went to live with her American admirer. It would appear, however, that a few days ago she repented of her bargain, and returned to her husband. Upon finding himself deserted, the American communicated with the husband, and informed him that if he could persuade his wife to return to him he would give the husband an additional £50. The husband, accordingly, tried all his powers to get the wife to leave him, and, finding her quite willing, communicated with the American, who was in London. He went to Wolverhampton on Saturday. He there saw the husband and wife, and it was arranged that the American, with the wife and three children, should leave Wolverhampton on Saturday for London. The Yankee arranged with the husband that he should see them to the station; and upon the signal being given for the train to start he would hand him a £50 Bank of England note. The husband accordingly saw the American, his wife, and three children safe in the train, and, upon it leaving the platform, received a Bank of England note from his Yankee friend. The train had hardly left the station, when, upon looking at the note, he found that it was a simple £5 note. Finding he was duped out of £45, his wife, and three children, he at once sent the following graphic telegraphic message to the police in this town:—"Tall thin man ran away with my wife and three children, two boxes, two handboxes, and a carpet-bag. He is an American, with a belt round him, with a bow-knife in the belt, and a revolver. They are going to London; but husband will be at Birmingham by the next train booked from Wolverhampton to New-street station. To be detained." Upon Detective Inspector Tandy receiving the telegram, he directed two detective sergeants (Spokes and Jenks) to meet the train from Wolverhampton and look out for the American, the wife, and three children. The two officers accordingly went to the station and found the husband in the cloak-room, he having arrived from Wolverhampton by the express which reaches Birmingham about ten minutes after the ordinary train. The officers made further inquiries and found the American had arrived. They then went to the Dudley-street side of the station, where the husband saw the American, with his wife and children and the luggage, he being in the act of putting the latter into a cab. The husband, going up to the Yankee, said, "Well, John, how are you getting on?" to which he replied, "All right, I guess." Upon this the husband informed him that he had given him at Wolverhampton station a £5 note instead of a £50 note, and he wanted the latter sum. Said the American, "Well, I guess it was a mistake," and, taking a bundle of notes from his pocket, handed the husband a £50 Bank of England note, which was passed to the detectives, who found it to be quite genuine. The husband then shook hands with his wife, and, kissing his children, wished them "Good-by!" and, with a friend who was with him, went to the nearest liquor-vault, where he "liquored" with his friend. The last that was seen of the American was that he, with the purchased wife and three children, were "making tracks" for London, where, we believe, they safely arrived.

FATHER CODANT, superior of Dominicans, has offered to receive into a ladies' school at Sévres, belonging to that order, one of the daughters of M. Jules Gérard. It appears that it is the nieces, and not the daughters, of M. Gérard who are left unprotected for.

THE METROPOLITAN HOMELESS POOR ACT.—The following statement shows the extent of accommodation which has been provided by the guardians of the unions and parishes within the metropolis for the homeless poor under this Act.—Prior to the passing of the Act the aggregate accommodation was for 997 persons only. On Dec. 30, 1864, the accommodation had been increased to 1400; the accommodation now is for 1676. The average number of this class in the workhouses on each night of the week ended Jan. 30, 1864, was 380. The average number on each night of the week ended Jan. 28, 1865, was 474; the highest number on any night in the latter week was 611. Thus, when the greatest number of beds were occupied, there were beds unoccupied 1005.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

During the whole of the week great inactivity has prevailed in the market for National Securities, although over £900,000 will be invested this quarter towards the reduction of the Public Debt. Sales of stock have been rather numerous, and the quotations have had a downward tendency. Consols for Money, have realised 99½; Ditto, for Account, 99½; Reduced and New Consols, 99½; Exchequer Bills, par to 100 prem. Bank of England, 99½; Indian Stocks, &c., have moved off slowly. India Stock, 215 to 218; Ditto, Five per Cent 103½; Rupee Paper, 101 to 103, and 105 to 110; India Bonds 10s. to 12s. prem.

There is an ample supply of money on offer in the Discount Market. The demand for accommodation is steady, at the annexed rates for the best commercial paper:—

Thirty Days' Bills	.. .. .	4½ per cent.
and Calcutta, 1865	.. .. .	5 " "
Three Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	5 " "
Four Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	5½ " "
Six Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	6 " "

The imports of the precious metals have been on a limited scale, and very few additions have been made to the stock of gold in the Bank of England.

The Continental can have been somewhat firmer, at 55 to 57; but the market for nearly all other Foreign Securities has ruled heavy, and, in some instances, prices have had a dropping tendency. Egyptian Seven per Cent. have marked 104½; Greek, 23½; Mexican Three per Cent. 29½; Ditto, 18½; 2½; Portuguese Three per Cent. 47½; Russian Five per Cent. 180½; 90½; Ditto Three per Cent. 53½; Ditto, Five per Cent. 194½; Spanish Three per Cent. 47½; Ditto, Deferred, 39½; Ditto, 1865, 42½; Ditto, 1866, 44½; Ditto, 1867, 46½; Ditto, 1868, 48½; Ditto, 1869, 50½; Ditto, 1870, 52½; Ditto, 1871, 54½; Ditto, 1872, 56½; Ditto, 1873, 58½; Ditto, 1874, 60½; Ditto, 1875, 62½; Ditto, 1876, 64½; Ditto, 1877, 66½; Ditto, 1878, 68½; Ditto, 1879, 70½; Ditto, 1880, 72½; Ditto, 1881, 74½; Ditto, 1882, 76½; Ditto, 1883, 78½; Ditto, 1884, 80½; Ditto, 1885, 82½; Ditto, 1886, 84½; Ditto, 1887, 86½; Ditto, 1888, 88½; Ditto, 1889, 90½; Ditto, 1890, 92½; Ditto, 1891, 94½; Ditto, 1892, 96½; Ditto, 1893, 98½; Ditto, 1894, 100½; Ditto, 1895, 102½; Ditto, 1896, 104½; Ditto, 1897, 106½; Ditto, 1898, 108½; Ditto, 1899, 110½; Ditto, 1900, 112½; Ditto, 1901, 114½; Ditto, 1902, 116½; Ditto, 1903, 118½; Ditto, 1904, 120½; Ditto, 1905, 122½; Ditto, 1906, 124½; Ditto, 1907, 126½; Ditto, 1908, 128½; Ditto, 1909, 130½; Ditto, 1910, 132½; Ditto, 1911, 134½; Ditto, 1912, 136½; Ditto, 1913, 138½; Ditto, 1914, 140½; Ditto, 1915, 142½; Ditto, 1916, 144½; Ditto, 1917, 146½; Ditto, 1918, 148½; Ditto, 1919, 150½; Ditto, 1920, 152½; Ditto, 1921, 154½; Ditto, 1922, 156½; Ditto, 1923, 158½; Ditto, 1924, 160½; Ditto, 1925, 162½; Ditto, 1926, 164½; Ditto, 1927, 166½; Ditto, 1928, 168½; Ditto, 1929, 170½; Ditto, 1930, 172½; Ditto, 1931, 174½; Ditto, 1932, 176½; Ditto, 1933, 178½; Ditto, 1934, 180½; Ditto, 1935, 182½; Ditto, 1936, 184½; Ditto, 1937, 186½; Ditto, 1938, 188½; Ditto, 1939, 190½; Ditto, 1940, 192½; Ditto, 1941, 194½; Ditto, 1942, 196½; Ditto, 1943, 198½; Ditto, 1944, 200½; Ditto, 1945, 202½; Ditto, 1946, 204½; Ditto, 1947, 206½; Ditto, 1948, 208½; Ditto, 1949, 210½; Ditto, 1950, 212½; Ditto, 1951, 214½; Ditto, 1952, 216½; Ditto, 1953, 218½; Ditto, 1954, 220½; Ditto, 1955, 222½; Ditto, 1956, 224½; Ditto, 1957, 226½; Ditto, 1958, 228½; Ditto, 1959, 230½; Ditto, 1960, 232½; Ditto, 1961, 234½; Ditto, 1962, 236½; Ditto, 1963, 238½; Ditto, 1964, 240½; Ditto, 1965, 242½; Ditto, 1966, 244½; Ditto, 1967, 246½; Ditto, 1968, 248½; Ditto, 1969, 250½; Ditto, 1970, 252½; Ditto, 1971, 254½; Ditto, 1972, 256½; Ditto, 1973, 258½; Ditto, 1974, 260½; Ditto, 1975, 262½; Ditto, 1976, 264½; Ditto, 1977, 266½; Ditto, 1978, 268½; Ditto, 1979, 270½; Ditto, 1980, 272½; Ditto, 1981, 274½; Ditto, 1982, 276½; Ditto, 1983, 278½; Ditto, 1984, 280½; Ditto, 1985, 282½; Ditto, 1986, 284½; Ditto, 1987, 286½; Ditto, 1988, 288½; Ditto, 1989, 290½; Ditto, 1990, 292½; Ditto, 1991, 294½; Ditto, 1992, 296½; Ditto, 1993, 298½; Ditto, 1994, 300½; Ditto, 1995, 302½; Ditto, 1996, 304½; Ditto, 1997, 306½; Ditto, 1998, 308½; Ditto, 1999, 310½; Ditto, 2000, 312½; Ditto, 2001, 314½; Ditto, 2002, 316½; Ditto, 2003, 318½; Ditto, 2004, 320½; Ditto, 2005, 322½; Ditto, 2006, 324½; Ditto, 2007, 326½; Ditto, 2008, 328½; Ditto, 2009, 330½; Ditto, 2010, 332½; Ditto, 2011, 334½; Ditto, 2012, 336½; Ditto, 2013, 338½; Ditto, 2014, 340½; Ditto, 2015, 342½; Ditto, 2016, 344½; Ditto, 2017, 346½; Ditto, 2018, 348½; Ditto, 2019, 350½; Ditto, 2020, 352½; Ditto, 2021, 354½; Ditto, 2022, 356½; Ditto, 2023, 358½; Ditto, 2024, 360½; Ditto, 2025, 362½; Ditto, 2026, 364½; Ditto, 2027, 366½; Ditto, 2028, 368½; Ditto, 2029, 370½; Ditto, 2030, 372½; Ditto, 2031, 374½; Ditto, 2032, 376½; Ditto, 2033, 378½; Ditto, 2034, 380½; Ditto, 2035, 382½; Ditto, 2036, 384½; Ditto, 2037, 386½; Ditto, 2038, 388½; Ditto, 2039, 390½; Ditto, 2040, 392½; Ditto, 2041, 394½; Ditto, 2042, 396½; Ditto, 2043, 398½; Ditto, 2044, 400½; Ditto, 2045, 402½; Ditto, 2046, 404½; Ditto, 2047, 406½; Ditto, 2048, 408½; Ditto, 2049, 410½; Ditto, 2050, 412½; Ditto, 2051, 414½; Ditto, 2052, 416½; Ditto, 2053, 418½; Ditto, 2054, 420½; Ditto, 2055, 422½; Ditto, 2056, 424½; Ditto, 2057, 426½; Ditto, 2058, 428½; Ditto, 2059, 430½; Ditto, 2060, 432½; Ditto, 2061, 434½; Ditto, 2062, 436½; Ditto, 2063, 438½; Ditto, 2064, 440½; Ditto, 2065, 442½; Ditto, 2066, 444½; Ditto, 2067, 446½; Ditto, 2068, 448½; Ditto, 2069, 450½; Ditto, 2070, 452½; Ditto, 2071, 454½; Ditto, 2072, 456½; Ditto, 2073, 458½; Ditto, 2074, 460½; Ditto, 2075, 462½; Ditto, 2076, 464½; Ditto, 2077, 466½; Ditto, 2078, 468½; Ditto, 2079, 470½; Ditto, 2080, 472½; Ditto, 2081, 474½; Ditto, 2082, 476½; Ditto, 2083, 478½; Ditto, 2084, 480½; Ditto, 2085, 482½; Ditto, 2086, 484½; Ditto, 2087, 486½; Ditto, 2088, 488½; Ditto, 2089, 490½; Ditto, 2090, 492½; Ditto, 2091, 494½; Ditto, 2092, 496½; Ditto, 2093, 498½; Ditto, 2094, 500½; Ditto, 2095, 502½; Ditto, 2096, 504½; Ditto, 2097, 506½; Ditto, 2098, 508½; Ditto, 2099, 510½; Ditto, 2100, 512½; Ditto, 2101, 514½; Ditto, 2102, 516½; Ditto, 2103, 518½; Ditto, 2104, 520½; Ditto, 2105, 522½; Ditto, 2106, 524½; Ditto, 2107, 526½; Ditto, 2108, 528½; Ditto, 2109, 530½; Ditto, 2110, 532½; Ditto, 2111, 534½; Ditto, 2112, 536½; Ditto, 2113, 538½; Ditto, 2114, 540½; Ditto, 2115, 542½; Ditto, 2116, 544½; Ditto, 2117, 546½; Ditto, 2118, 548½; Ditto, 2119, 550½; Ditto, 2120, 552½; Ditto, 2121, 554½; Ditto, 2122, 556½; Ditto, 2123, 558½; Ditto, 2124, 560½; Ditto, 2125, 562½; Ditto, 2126, 564½; Ditto, 2127, 566½; Ditto, 2128, 568½; Ditto, 2129, 570½; Ditto, 2130, 572½; Ditto, 2131, 574½; Ditto, 2132, 576½; Ditto, 2133, 578½; Ditto, 2134, 580½; Ditto, 2135, 582½; Ditto, 2136, 584½; Ditto, 2137, 586½; Ditto, 2138, 588½; Ditto, 2139, 590½; Ditto, 2140, 592½; Ditto, 2141, 594½; Ditto, 2142, 596½; Ditto, 2143, 598½; Ditto, 2144, 600½; Ditto, 2145, 602½; Ditto, 2146, 604½; Ditto, 2147, 606½; Ditto, 2148, 608½; Ditto, 2149, 610½; Ditto, 2150, 612½; Ditto, 2151, 614½; Ditto, 2152, 616½; Ditto, 2153, 618½; Ditto, 2154, 620½; Ditto, 2155, 622½; Ditto, 2156, 624½; Ditto, 2157, 626½; Ditto, 2158, 628½; Ditto, 2159, 630½; Ditto, 2160, 632½; Ditto, 2161, 634½; Ditto, 2162, 636½; Ditto, 2163, 638½; Ditto, 2164, 640½; Ditto, 2165, 642½; Ditto, 2166, 644½; Ditto, 2167, 646½; Ditto, 2168, 648½; Ditto, 2169, 650½; Ditto, 2170, 652½; Ditto, 2171, 654½; Ditto, 2172, 656½; Ditto, 2173, 658½; Ditto, 2174, 660½; Ditto, 2175, 662½; Ditto, 2176, 664½; Ditto, 2177, 666½; Ditto, 2178, 668½; Ditto, 2179, 670½; Ditto, 2180, 672½; Ditto, 2181, 674½; Ditto, 2182, 676½; Ditto, 2183, 678½; Ditto, 2184, 680½; Ditto, 2185, 682½; Ditto, 2186, 684½; Ditto, 2187, 686½; Ditto, 2188, 688½; Ditto, 2189, 690½; Ditto, 2190, 692½; Ditto, 2191, 694½; Ditto, 2192, 696½; Ditto, 2193, 698½; Ditto, 2194, 700½; Ditto, 2195, 702½; Ditto, 2196, 704½; Ditto, 2197, 706½; Ditto, 2198, 708½; Ditto, 2199, 710½; Ditto, 2200, 712½; Ditto, 2201, 714½; Ditto, 2202, 716½; Ditto, 2203, 718½; Ditto, 2204, 720½; Ditto, 2205, 722½; Ditto, 2206, 724½; Ditto, 2207, 726½; Ditto, 2208, 728½; Ditto, 2209, 730½; Ditto, 2210, 732½; Ditto, 2211, 734½; Ditto, 2212, 736½; Ditto, 2213, 738½; Ditto, 2214, 740½; Ditto, 2215, 742½; Ditto, 2216, 744½; Ditto, 2217, 746½; Ditto, 2218, 748½; Ditto, 2219, 750½; Ditto, 2220, 752½; Ditto, 2221, 754½; Ditto, 2222, 756½; Ditto, 2223, 758½; Ditto, 2224, 760½; Ditto, 2225, 762½; Ditto, 2226, 764½; Ditto, 2227, 766½; Ditto, 2228, 768½; Ditto, 2229, 770½; Ditto, 2230, 772½; Ditto, 2231, 774½; Ditto, 2232, 776½; Ditto, 2233, 778½; Ditto, 2234, 780½; Ditto, 2235, 782½; Ditto, 2236, 784½; Ditto, 2237, 786½; Ditto, 2238, 788½; Ditto, 2239, 790½; Ditto, 2240, 792½; Ditto, 2241, 794½; Ditto, 2242, 796½; Ditto, 2243, 798½; Ditto, 2244, 800½; Ditto, 2245, 802½; Ditto, 2246, 804½; Ditto, 2247, 806½; Ditto, 2248, 808½; Ditto, 2249, 810½; Ditto, 2250, 812½; Ditto, 2251, 814½; Ditto, 2252, 816½; Ditto, 2253, 818½; Ditto, 2254, 820½; Ditto, 2255, 822½; Ditto, 2256, 824½; Ditto, 2257, 826½; Ditto, 2258, 828½; Ditto, 2259, 830½; Ditto, 2260, 832½; Ditto, 2261, 834½; Ditto, 2262, 836½; Ditto, 2263, 838½; Ditto, 2264, 840½; Ditto, 2265, 842½; Ditto, 2266, 844½; Ditto, 2267, 846½; Ditto, 2268, 848½; Ditto, 2269, 850½; Ditto, 2270, 852½; Ditto, 2271, 854½; Ditto, 2272, 856½; Ditto, 2273, 858½; Ditto, 2274, 860½; Ditto, 2275, 862½; Ditto, 2276, 864½; Ditto, 2277, 866½; Ditto, 2278, 868½; Ditto, 2279, 870½; Ditto, 2280, 872½; Ditto, 2281, 874½; Ditto, 2282, 876½; Ditto, 2283, 878½; Ditto, 2284, 880½; Ditto, 2285, 882½; Ditto, 2286, 884½; Ditto, 2287, 886½; Ditto, 2288, 888½; Ditto, 2289, 890½; Ditto, 2290, 892½; Ditto, 2291, 894½; Ditto, 2292, 896½; Ditto, 2293, 898½; Ditto, 2294, 900½; Ditto, 2295, 902½; Ditto, 2296, 904½; Ditto, 2297, 906½; Ditto, 2298, 908½; Ditto, 229

